VIZ media

shôjo

RED RIVER™

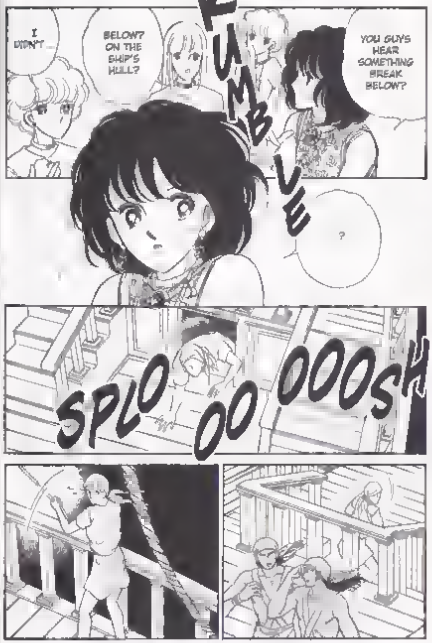
19

story and art by **Chie Shinohara**

TUM
TUM
TUM
OH MY!
OH DEAR!
SPLOOSH
Y-YES!
WOOPS!
THE WIND HAS REALLY PICKED UP!
SPLASH
RUMBLE
CRACK
THINGS SHOULD CALM DOWN BY MORNING
WE SHOULD TRY TO SLEEP

YOU'RE SERIOUS? WHY'S IN UGARIT?!
THEN HE KNOWS ABOUT THE CHILD! THIS IS CALAMITOUS!
WE CAN'T GET A MESSAGE TO SOMEONE AT SEA!
HOW?
WE MUST WARN RUSAFA!
YURI!

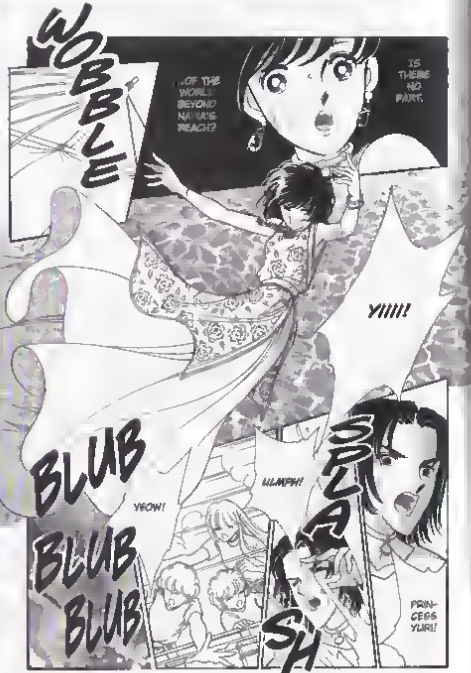
GASP
OFFICER ALEK?
WHY ARE YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR?
SLICE
SLICE
YAAH!
SHOVE
SIR, THAT SHEET!
WHY ARE YOU CUTTING THA—?!
AUGH!


RUMBLE
I DIDN'T...
BELOW? ON THE SHIP'S HULL?
YOU GUYS HEAR SOMETHING BREAK BELOW?
?
SPLOOOOOSH

IF IT'S LIBRA, THEN NAGA STRIKES AGAIN!
RYU! THE TEMPLE!
THE PRIEST WE SAW WAS IT URU!?
BLOND PRIEST ?!
WOB
BLE
EEE!
AH!
RUMBLE
SINKING?
THE SHIP'S SINKING!
WE MUST TRANSFER ISHTAR TO ANOTHER SHIP IMMEDIATELY!

FWOOM
I HAVE TO DO THIS TO SAVE MY SON'S LIFE!
FORGIVE ME COMMANDER REGIL!
CRACKLE CRACKLE
ALEX!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
CRACKLE CRACKLE
CRACKLE
THAT BLOND PRIEST PROMISED ME!
THE PRIEST PROMISED ME!
IF I SINK THIS SHIP I'LL RECEIVE ENOUGH MONEY TO TAKE MY SON TO A DOCTOR!

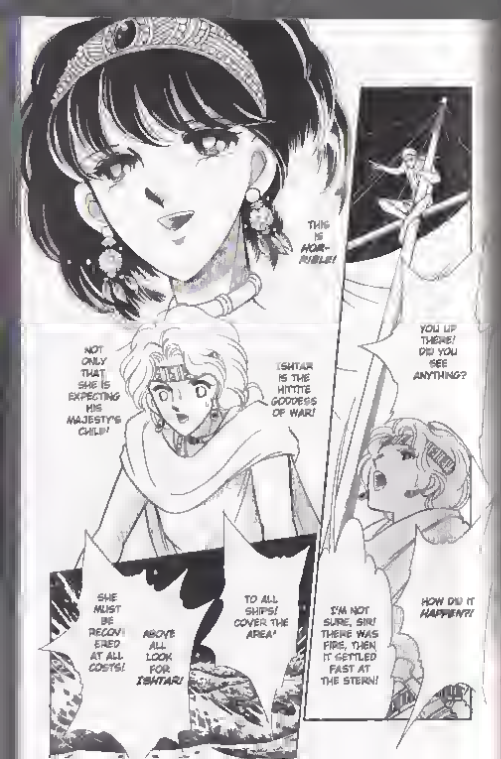
SPLA
ASH
AAGH!
WE'RE SHIPPING WATER AT THE STERN!
THE SHIP'S DOOMED, SIR!
NO GOOD, SIR!
THE RUDDER'S DESTROYED! WE CAN'T MANEUVER!
WHAT?!
SIGNAL FLARE!
COM. COMMANDER RIGIL!
FIRE A SIGNAL FLARE! HURRY!
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
IT'S TOO LATE, SIR!


WOBBLE
...OF THE WORLD BEYOND NAUSICA'S REACH?
IS THERE NO PART.
YIIII!
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
YEOW!
UMPH!
SPLA
ASH
PRINCESS YUKI!

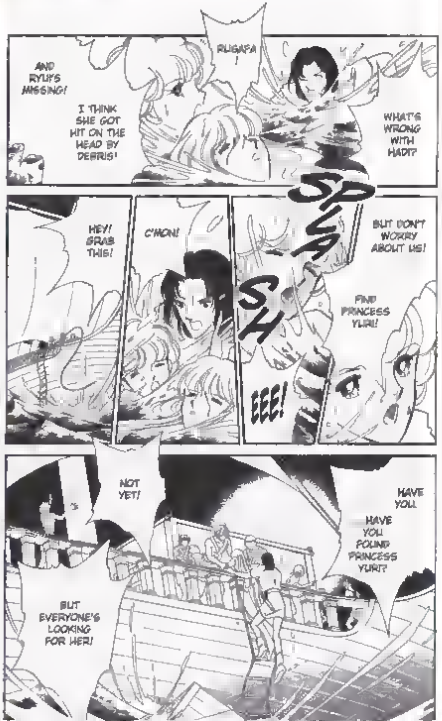
BLUB
BLUB
KUMBLE

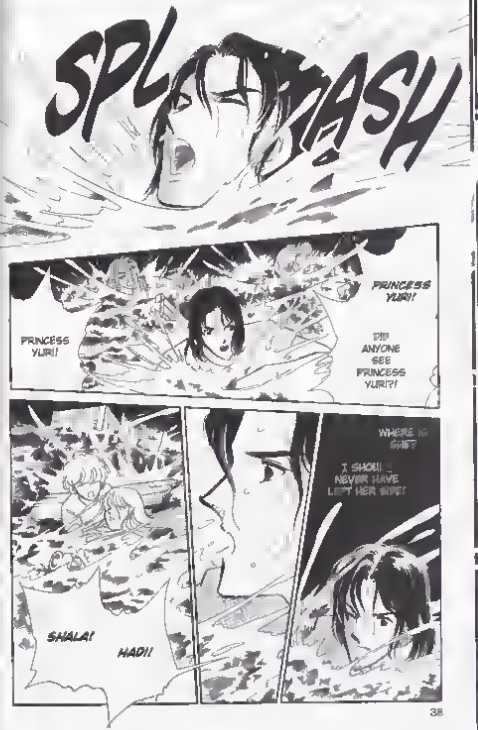
MY STOMACH
THROB
...HURTS!

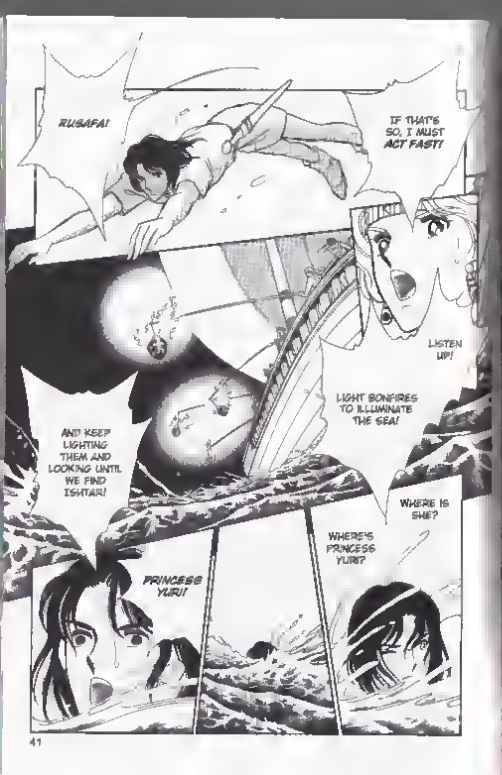
I CAN SWIM...
I'M OKAY
BLUB
I'M FINE...
I CAN SWIM.
BLUB
BLUB


THIS IS HORRIBLE!
YOU UP THERE! DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?
I'M NOT SURE, SIR! THERE WAS FIRE, THEN IT SETTLED FAST AT THE STERN!
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?!
NOT ONLY THAT SHE IS EXPECTING HIS MAJESTY'S CHILD!
ISHTAR IS THE HITTITE GODDESS OF WAR!
SHE MUST BE RECOVERED AT ALL COSTS!
ABOVE ALL LOOK FOR ISHTAR!
TO ALL SHIPS! COVER THE AREA!

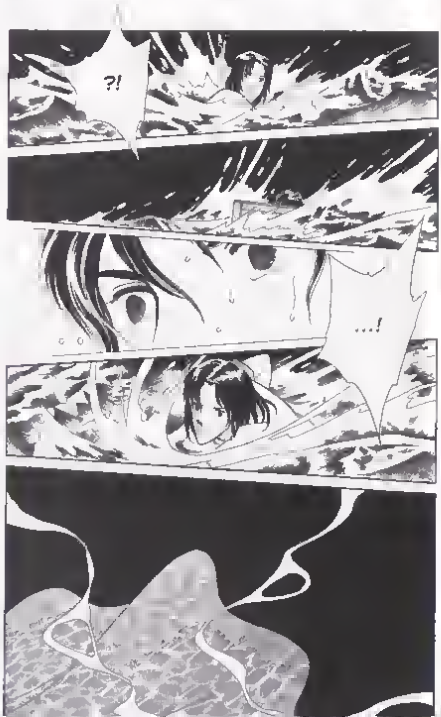
THE FLAGSHIP!
IT'S GONE UNDER!
THIS... THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
SIGNAL THE FLEET TO FORM UP AND SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS!
ONE MINUTE IT WAS THERE THE NEXT...


AND RYUI'S MISSING!
I THINK SHE GOT HIT ON THE HEAD BY DEBRIS!
RUGAFA
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HADI?
HEY! GRAB THIS!
C'MON!
SPLA
SH
EEE!
BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!
FIND PRINCESS YURI!
NOT YET!
HAVE YOU
HAVE YOU FOUND PRINCESS YURI?
BUT EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR HER!


SPLASH
PRINCESS YURI!
PRINCESS YURI!
DID ANYONE SEE PRINCESS YURI?!
WHERE IS SHE?
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT HER SIDE!
SWALA!
HADI!


RUSAFA!
IF THAT'S SO, I MUST ACT FAST!
LISTEN UP!
LIGHT BONFIRES TO ILLUMINATE THE SEA!
AND KEEP LIGHTING THEM AND LOOKING UNTIL WE FIND ISHTAR!
WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE'S PRINCESS YURI?
PRINCESS YURI!

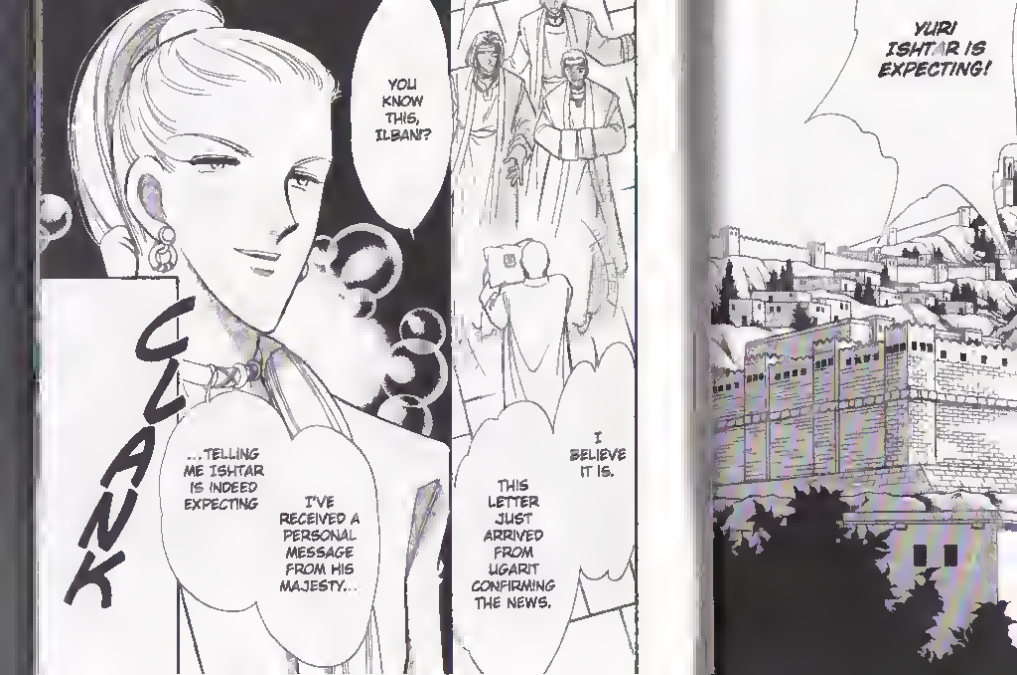
YOU'RE GOING BACK IN THE WATER?!
I MUST FIND ISHTAR!
PLEASE LOOK AFTER THESE WOMEN, SIR!
RUSAFA! I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!
PRINCE FYAGIL!
THE CURRENT'S VERY STRONG HERE! YOU WON'T MAKE IT BACK!
DON'T BE A FOOL!
YOU KNOW THE ODDS AGAINST FINDING HER IN THIS DARK SEA!



WE CAN'T LOSE PRINCESS YURI!

THE HITTITE PEOPLE AND HIS MAJESTY NEED HER!

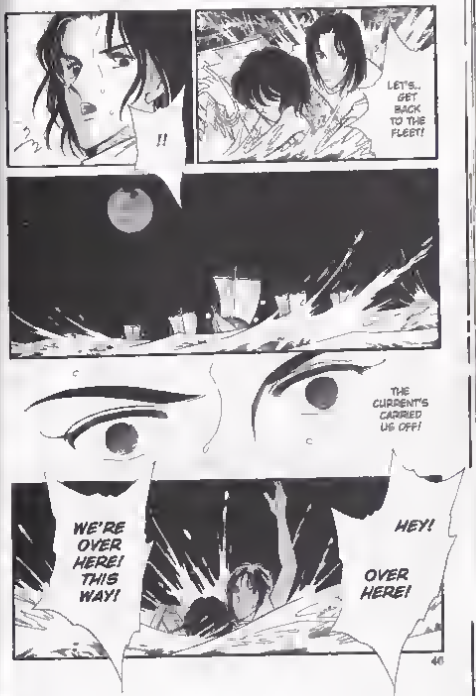
WE WANT HER TO BE OUR *QUEEN!*

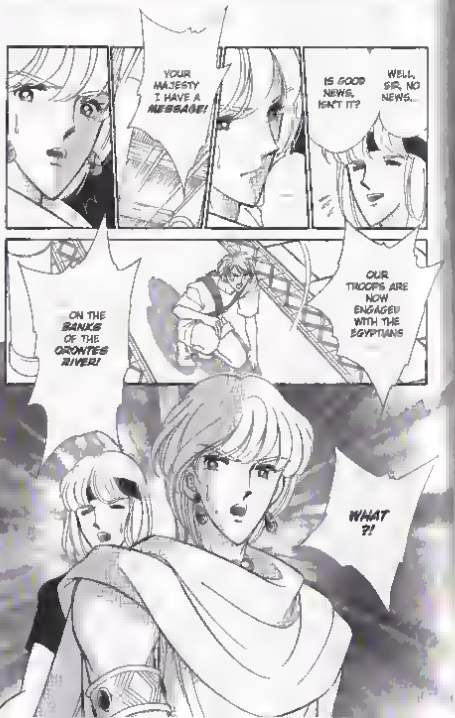

YURI ISHTAR IS EXPECTING!
I BELIEVE IT IS.
THIS LETTER JUST ARRIVED FROM UGARIT CONFIRMING THE NEWS.
YOU KNOW THIS, ILBANI?
KNOCK
I'VE RECEIVED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY...
...TELLING ME ISHTAR IS INDEED EXPECTING

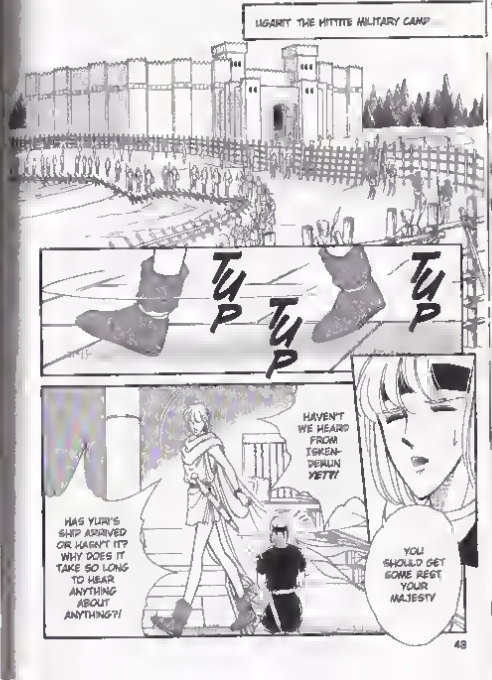
IT'S ME, RUSAFA!
PRINCESS YURI!
PRINCESS YURI!
UHHH...
!!
RUSAFA ?
HELP..
HELP MY BABY
RUSAFA.
YES, PRINCESS YURI! I'M HERE!

PRINCESS YURI!

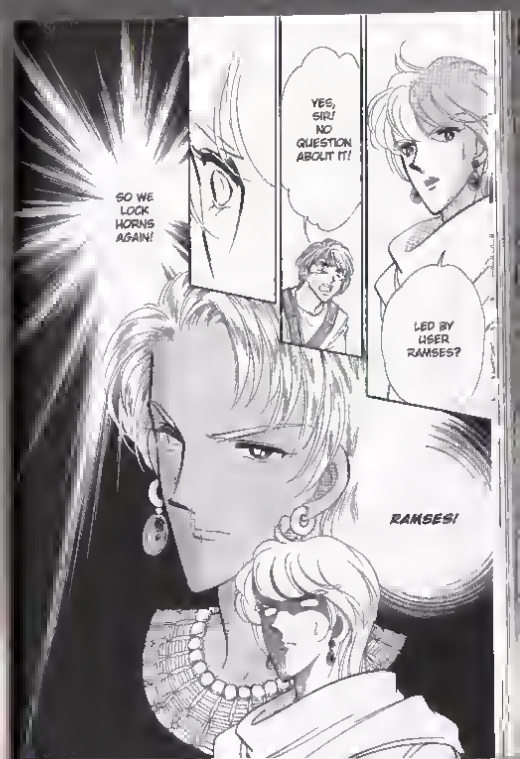
...I'M COLD...
SO VERY COLD...
MY BABY... HELP MY BABY...!


!!
LET'S... GET BACK TO THE FLEET!
THE CURRENT'S CARRIED US OFF!
WE'RE OVER HERE! THIS WAY!
HEY! OVER HERE!


YOUR MAJESTY I HAVE A MESSAGE!
IS GOOD NEWS, ISN'T IT?
WELL, SIR, NO NEWS...
OUR TROOPS ARE NOW ENGAGED WITH THE EGYPTIANS
ON THE BANKS OF THE ORONTES RIVER!
WHAT ?!

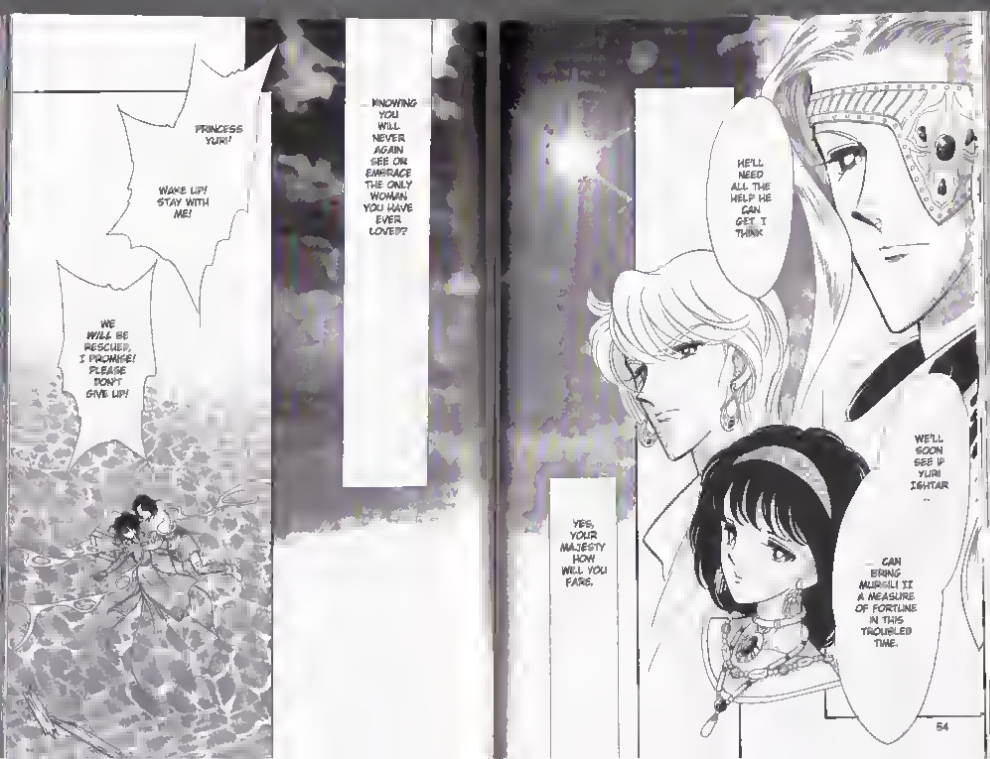

UGARIT THE HITTITE MILITARY CAMP
TUP TUP TUP
HAVEN'T WE HEARD FROM ISKEN-DERUN YET?
HAS YURI'S SHIP ARRIVED OR HASN'T IT? WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT ANYTHING?!
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST YOUR MAJESTY

YOUR ORDERS, SIR?
I'M SURE YURI IS SAFE
YOUR MAJESTY ?
BELIEVE SHE IS!
I MUST
I MUST...


YES, SIR! NO QUESTION ABOUT IT!
LED BY USER RAMSES?
SO WE LOCK HORNS AGAIN!
RAMSES!

RAAHH
ROAARR
SO THE KING HEADS TO THE BATTLEFIELD EH?
ROAARR

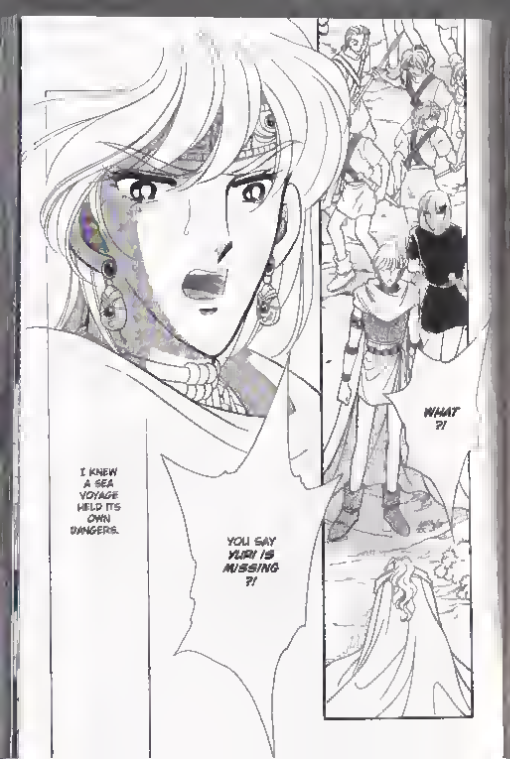
RAAHH
ROAARR
WH
UP
I'M OFF TO THE FRONT!


PRINCESS YURI!
WAKE UP! STAY WITH ME!
WE WILL BE RESCUED, I PROMISE! PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP!
KNOWING YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN SEE OR EMBRACE THE ONLY WOMAN YOU HAVE EVER LOVED?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY HOW WELL YOU FARE.
HE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET, I THINK
WE'LL SOON SEE IF YURI ISHTAR -
- CAN BRING MURSILI II A MEASURE OF FORTUNE IN THIS TROUBLED TIME.

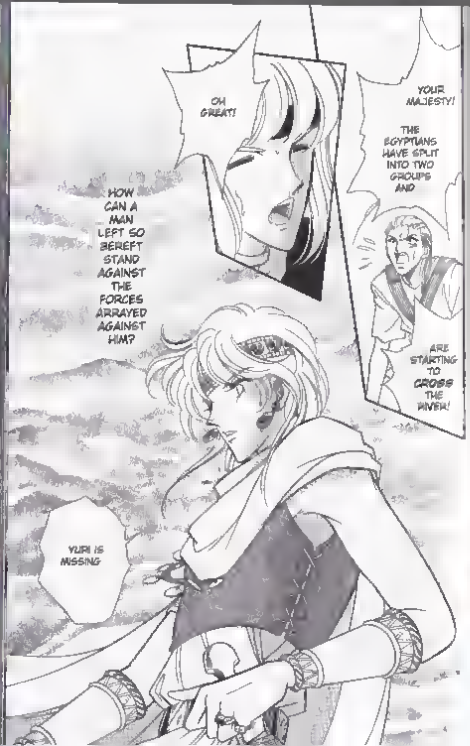
PLEASE, GOD!
PLEASE, PLEASE HELP US!

PRINCESS YURI!
UHHH.
NO SHIPS OR LAND IN SIGHT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHE'S EXHAUSTED AND THE WATER'S SAPPING HER STRENGTH!
RAARGH!

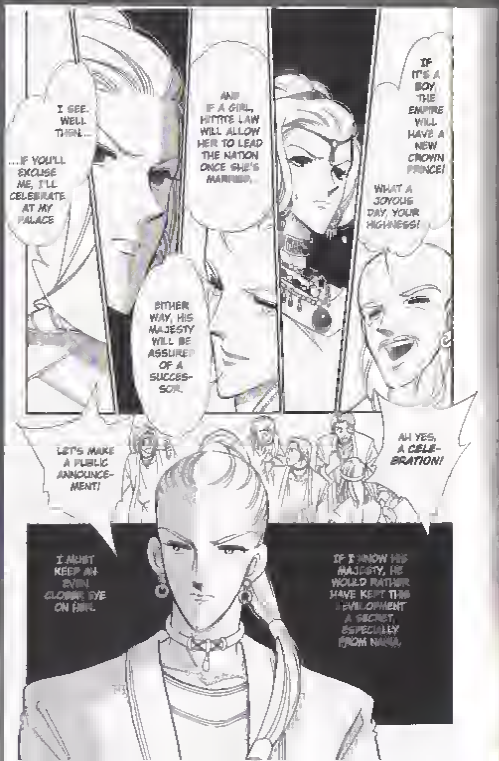
CRASH
CLANK
YOU'RE RIGHT
THEY'RE AS DETERMINED TO CROSS THE RIVER AS WE ARE TO STOP THEM!
RAMSES' MEN ARE PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT
KAH
KAH
YOUR MAJESTY! A MESSENGER'S COMING!
NOW WHAT?!
ROAR
RAAAH
ROAR
HOLD THE EGYPTIANS AT THE RIVER!
WHAT A FINE AND UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY TO PUT AN END TO HIM!
IS THAT INCREDIBLE! IT IN COMMAND?

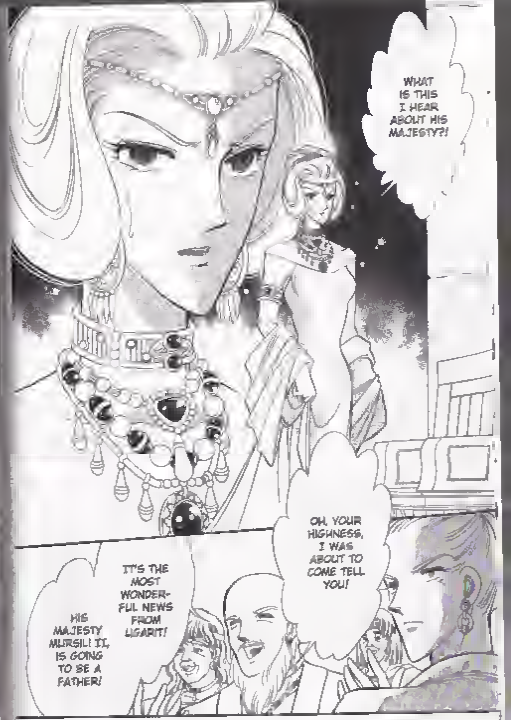

I KNEW A SEA VOYAGE HELD ITS OWN DANGERS.
YOU SAY YURI IS MISSING?!
WHAT?!

YOUR MAJESTY!
KLAKKA
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TRAVELING WITH PRINCESS YURI AND PRINCE PYAGLI!
MALI?!
IT CAUGHT FIRE AND SANK! ISHTAR AND MANY OTHERS ARE MISSING!
YOUR MAJESTY I MUST INFORM YOU.
THAT THE FLAGSHIP HAS BEEN LOST!
THUD


OH GREAT!
YOUR MAJESTY!
THE EGYPTIANS HAVE SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS AND
ARE STARTING TO CROSS THE RIVER!
HOW CAN A MAN LEFT SO BEREFT STAND AGAINST THE FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST HIM?
YURI IS MISSING

I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS TO EXPRESS MY SORROW FOR ALLOWING SUCH A DISASTER TO HAPPEN!
ALONG WITH RUSAFA AND RYLI!
MY MEN CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THEM!
I CAN IMAGINE!
TO LOSE THE LOVE OF ONE'S LIFE,
MISSING
YURI IS.
HOW CAN ANY MAN BEAR SUCH A TRAGEDY?


I SEE. WELL THEN...
...IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'LL CELEBRATE AT MY PALACE
AND IF A GIRL, HITTITE LAW WILL ALLOW HER TO LEAD THE NATION ONCE SHE'S MARRIED.
IF IT'S A BOY, THE EMPIRE WILL HAVE A NEW CROWN PRINCE!
WHAT A JOYOUS DAY, YOUR HIGHNESS!
EITHER WAY, HIS MAJESTY WILL BE ASSURED OF A SUCCESSOR.
LET'S MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT!
AH YES, A CELEBRATION!
I MUST KEEP AN EVEN CLOSER EYE ON HIM.
IF I KNOW HIS MAJESTY, HE WOULD RATHER HAVE KEPT THIS DEVELOPMENT A SECRET ESPECIALLY FROM NANYA.

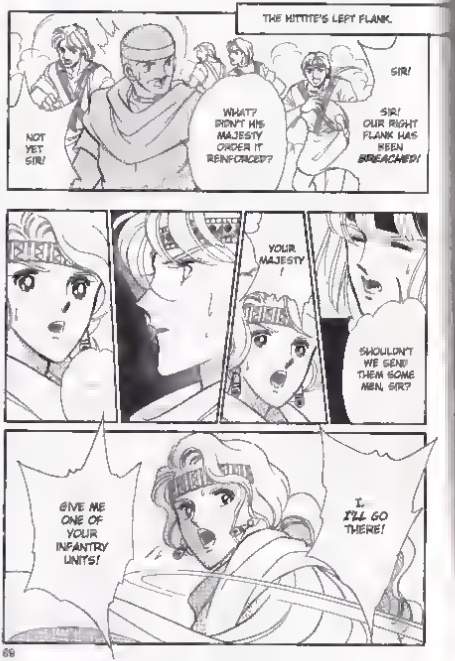

WHAT IS THIS I HEAR ABOUT HIS MAJESTY?!
OH, YOUR HIGHNESS, I WAS ABOUT TO COME TELL YOU!
IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL NEWS FROM UGARIT!
HIS MAJESTY MURSILI II, IS GOING TO BE A FATHER!

IF I LOSE YUKI...
THE SKY WILL TUMBLE DOWN UPON ME!
YOUR MAJESTY!
PLEASE GIVE US YOUR ORDERS!

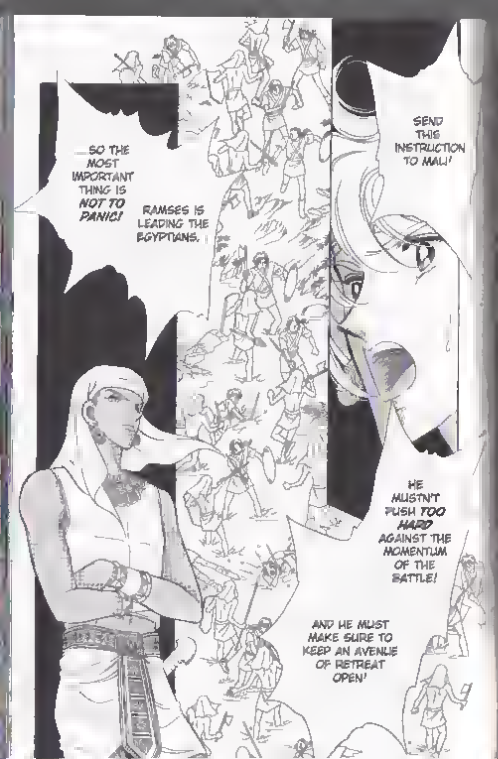
SIR.
YOUR MAJESTY?!
THE EGYPTIANS ARE COMING AT US!
WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, YOUR MAJESTY?!
RAAAAH
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
CROSS THE ORONTES RIVER!
BRING DOWN THE HITTITES!

I LOVE YOU, KAIL.
KAIL...
KAIL.
YURI IS MISSING.
YOUR MAJESTY!
MY BROTHER!

KAIL...
THEN I WILL ASSUME IT AND GLADLY
I'M NOT SURE I'M WORTHY TO SERVE AS TAWANAMANA.
BUT IF NAKIA MAY NO LONGER HOLD THAT POSITION...


THE HITTITE'S LEFT FLANK.
SIR!
SIR! OUR RIGHT FLANK HAS BEEN BREACHED!
WHAT? DIDN'T HIS MAJESTY ORDER IT REINFORCED?
NOT YET SIR!
YOUR MAJESTY!
SHOULDN'T WE SEND THEM SOME MEN, SIR?
I, I'LL GO THERE!
GIVE ME ONE OF YOUR INFANTRY UNITS!

THE EGYPTIANS HAVE MADE IT ACROSS!
I HAVE AN UPDATE, SIR!
THEY HAVE US IN A PINCER!
ROAR
ROAR
ALRIGHT
GLAGH!

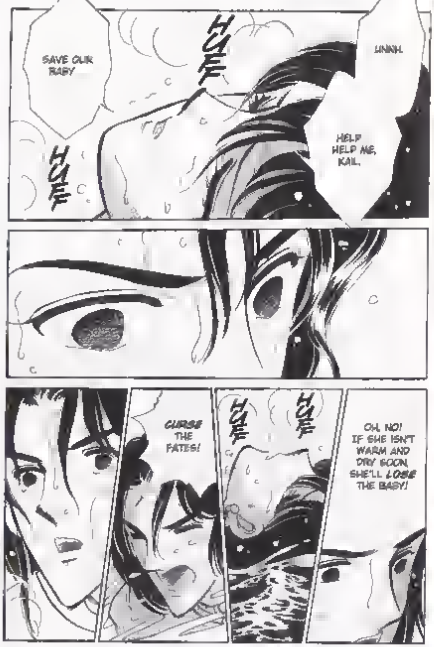

SO THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO PANIC!
RAMSES IS LEADING THE EGYPTIANS.
SEND THIS INSTRUCTION TO MALI!
HE MUSTN'T PUSH TOO HARD AGAINST THE MOMENTUM OF THE BATTLE!
AND HE MUST MAKE SURE TO KEEP AN AVENUE OF RETREAT OPEN!

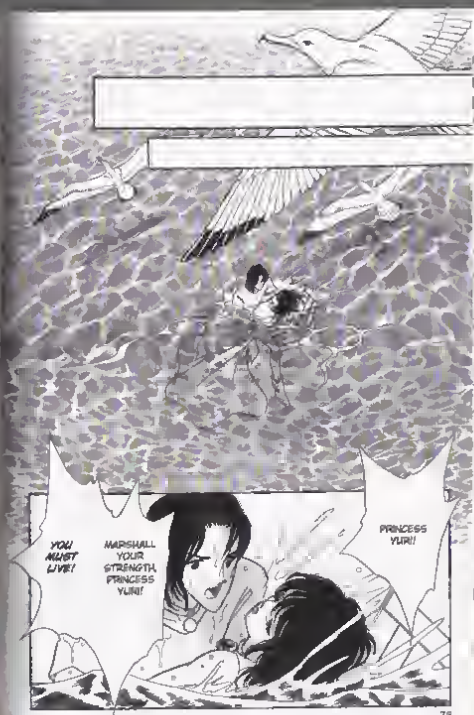
TA-RUM!
TA-RUM!
TA-RUM!
YOUR MAJESTY!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
BLINK
GASP
H... HOW MANY EGYPTIANS ARE WE FACING ON THE RIGHT FLANK?
I BELIEVE THERE ARE ABOUT 150!
SIR...

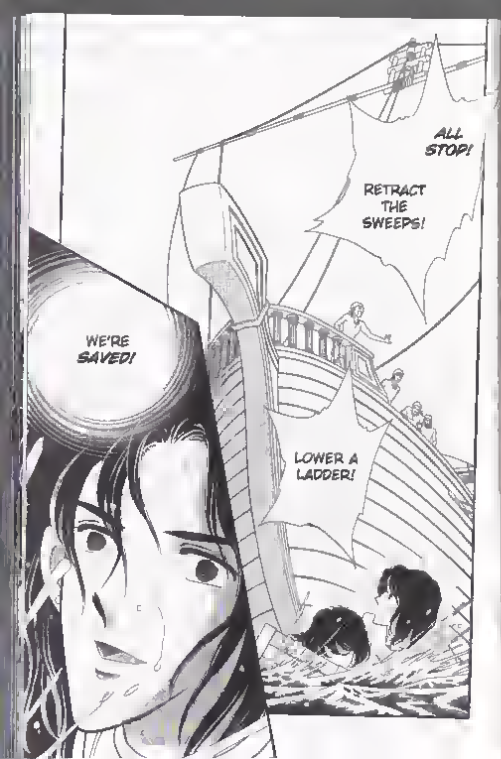
ROAR
THE NEWS OF YUTA HAS UNMANNED ME!
I'VE FAILED MY MEN... AND MY NATION!
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
HAS YOUR HEART FLED THIS BATTLE?!
THIS IS A SAD RESPONSE, MURSILI! HAVE YOU GONE FEEBLE?!
ROAR

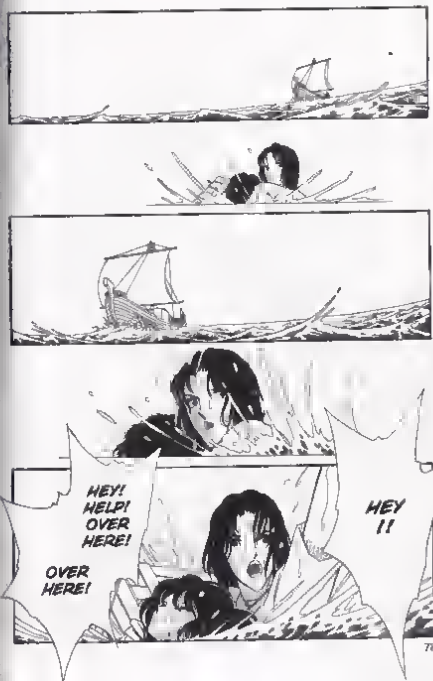
MY GOD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
YET IT WILL BE TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE!
I'VE NEVER FACED SUCH FORMIDABLE FIGHTERS!
KLAK
KLAK
WHACK
RATTLE
RATTLE
WE MUST FALL BACK AND REGROUP!
WE CAN'T HOLD HERE! TIME TO RETREAT!
THIS IS NO GOOD!
WITH RAMSES COMMANDING THEM, EVEN A SMALL MISTAKE ON OUR SIDE COULD BE FATAL!

R-RETREAT!
ALL HITTITE FORCES RETREAT!!
VICTORY IS IN HIS GRASP! NOTHING WILL STOP HIM!
RAMSES IS LIKE A CIRCLING HAWK.
CLOSING IN ON ITS PREY WITH WINGS STRETCHED FREE AND WIDE.


SAVE OUR BABY
HUFF
HUFF
UHHH.
HELP HELP ME, KAIL.
CURSE THE FATES!
HUFF
HUFF
OH, NO! IF SHE ISN'T WARM AND DRY SOON, SHE'LL LOSE THE BABY!


YOU MUST LIVE!
MARSHALL YOUR STRENGTH, PRINCESS YURI!
PRINCESS YURI!


ALL STOP!
RETRACT THE SWEEPS!
WE'RE SAVED!
LOWER A LADDER!

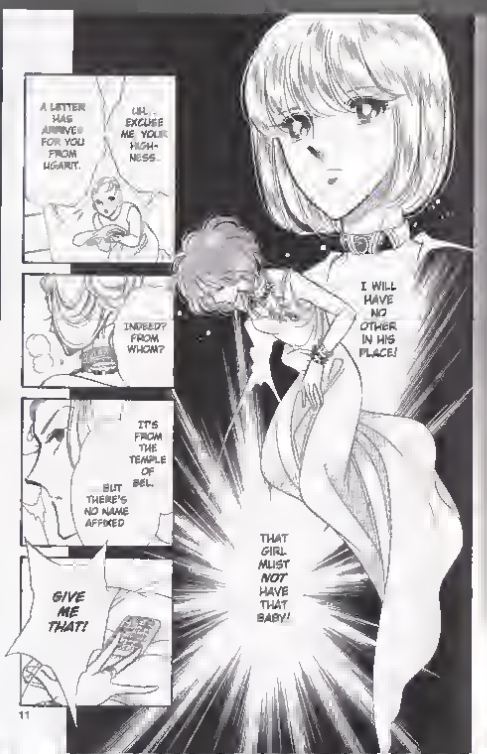

HEY! HELP! OVER HERE!
OVER HERE!
HEY !!

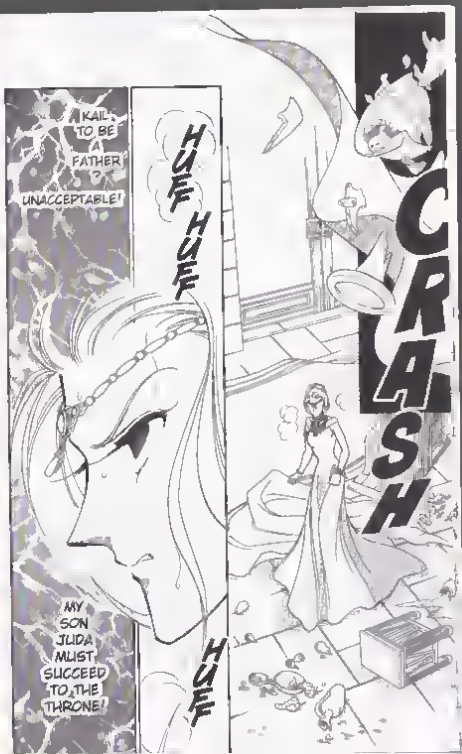
ROOAAR
RAAAHH
SIR!
HMM...
THE HITTITES ARE IN ORDERLY RETREAT
MURSILI SEEMS TO HAVE CLEARED HIS HEAD AT LAST

SIR?
I KNOW WHAT MURSILI IS UP TO
IF WE PURSUE, WE MIGHT FIND OURSELVES TOO DEEP IN ENEMY TERRITORY
WHAT SHOULD WE DO SIR?
ALL TROOPS! WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY!
WE'LL BUILD A NEW DEFENSIVE LINE MIDWAY BETWEEN THE PALACE AND THE ORONTES!
YOUR MAJESTY?

I'M SORRY, YURI.
...BUT MY NATION REQUIRES MY FULL ATTENTION.
WILL WE BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR MY EARLIER INACTION?
I HATE CEDING THE BANKS OF THE ORONTES, BUT IT'S NO LONGER A TENABLE POSITION FROM WHICH TO DEFEND UGARIT

PLEASE! IT'S THE BEST WAY I CAN SERVE YOUR MAJESTY!
MALI...
BROTHER!
LET ME COMMAND THE REAR GUARD!
NOT A BRILLIANT MOVE, I KNOW...
BUT IT'S OUR BEST COURSE
WE'LL POSITION THE BULK OF OUR FORCES AT THE REAR TO BUY TIME
VERY WELL, MALI YOU'RE IN COMMAND!
YES, SIR!


A LETTER HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU FROM UGARIT.
UH, EXCUSE ME YOUR HIGHNESS.
INDEED? FROM WHOM?
IT'S FROM THE TEMPLE OF BEL.
BUT THERE'S NO NAME AFFIXED
GIVE ME THAT!
I WILL HAVE NO OTHER IN HIS PLACE!
THAT GIRL MUST NOT HAVE THAT BABY!


KAIL TO BE A FATHER? UNACCEPTABLE!
HUF HUF
HUF
MY SON JUDA MUST SUCCEED TO THE THRONE!
CRASH

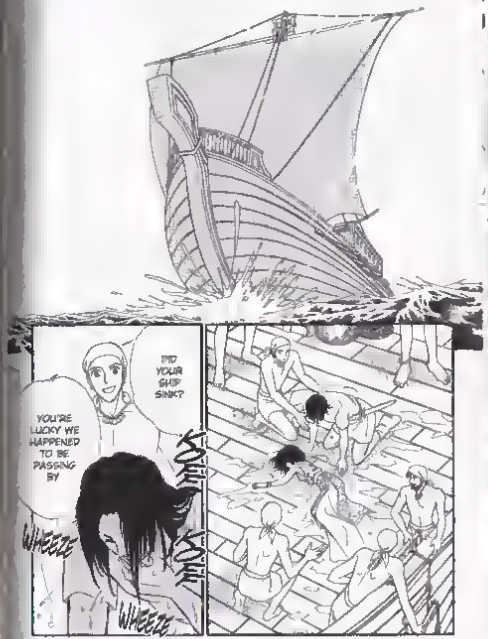
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, SIR!
SEE?
HE'S TRYING TO BUY TIME
RAMSES!
KLAK
TUMP
YOU WILL ADVANCE NO FURTHER!
GENERAL USER RAMSES!
IT'LL COST YOU, MURSIL!
AND I'LL STILL CHASE YOU TO THE GATES OF LIGART!
KLAK

CLANK
ROAR
ROAR
EVEN IF THEY FALL BACK, MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION!
HOLD THE EGYPTIANS HERE, MEN!
WILL HIS MAJESTY MY BROTHER, EVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME?
I KNOW THIS CANNOT MAKE UP FOR MY LOSING PRINCESS YURI, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST

THU
NK
...CHANGE THE FACT...
THAT ONLY YOUR BROTHER, KING MURSILI, IS WORTHY TO CHALLENGE ME!
PRINCE PIYASILI!

AH, YOU MUST BE.
MURSILI II'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
CLA
NG
SIR!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
I'M SORRY YOUNG PRINCE.
YOU ARE BRAVE BUT THAT DOES NOT
FLAP

UNNH.
HUFF
HUFF
UH...
!!
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SAVING US!
HAVE YOU A PHYSICIAN ABOARD
...OR ANYONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE?
WHERE ARE THE TWO OF YOU FROM, IF I MAY ASK?
NO. I'M AFRAID WE DON'T


DID YOUR SHIP SINK?
YOU'RE LUCKY WE HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY
COUGH
COUGH
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

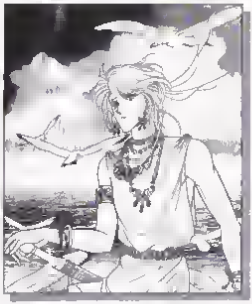
YOU BET! OUR CURRENT EMPLOYER IS...
IS THAT RIGHT?
OUR SEAFARING SERVICES ARE IN GREAT DEMAND THROUGHOUT THE REGION.
WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
ARE THESE TWO
THE ONES YOU RESCUED FROM THE SEA.
THE SEAMAN'S CODE REQUIRES WE AID ALL CASTAWAYS.
OH, CAPTAIN!
...SO OUR RULES SUPERCEDE YOUR CODES.
YOU MEN WORK FOR US..

UNTIL I KNOW IF THEY'RE FRIEND OR FOE, I'LL BE OBLIGED TO KEEP OUR IDENTITIES SECRET
WE ARE ON THE HIGH SEAS, SO THESE MEN COULD HAIL FROM ANYWHERE.
I MUST TAKE CARE IN ANSWERING THAT
THANKS TO THAT...
CANAAN. A NEUTRAL NATION
PERHAPS THEY'LL GIVE US PASSAGE TO AN ALLIED PORT
IT IS, INDEED.
CANAANITE SHIPS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
THIS APPEARS TO BE A SHIP FROM CANAAN.
TO WHOM ARE WE INDEBTED?

I'LL ASK YOU MYSELF— WHERE ARE YOU TWO FROM?
WE'RE ON A SHIP CHARTERED BY THE EGYPTIANS!
WHAT ROTTEN LUCK!

...NO ONE IS TO BE BROUGHT ABOARD ONE OF OUR GREAT PHARAOH'S VESSELS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
AND THE FIRST RULE IS,
EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS!
HEY!
LOOK!
HUH! A WOMAN.

HSHH
THESE EGYPTIANS...
HSHH
GULP
FROM THE STEWPOT INTO THE FIRE!
...MUST NOT FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE!
HSHH
HSHH



UNNH...

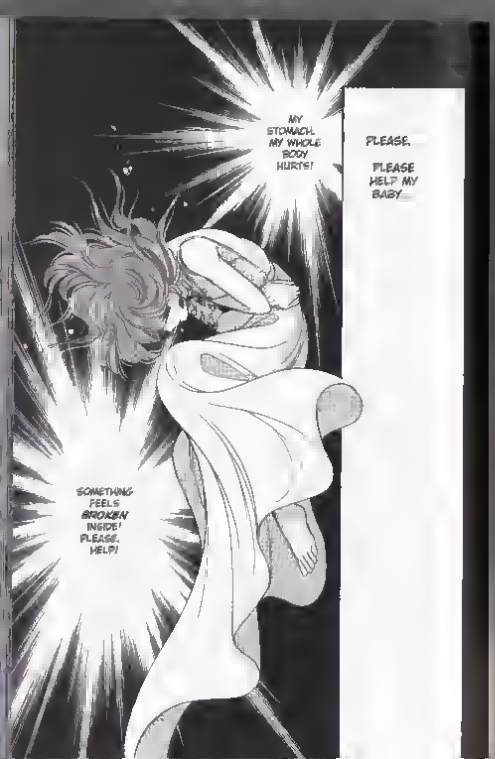
HELP MY BABY. PLEASE.
HUFF
HUFF
IT. IT HURTS.
MY STOMACH HURTS.
HUFF

IS SHE YOUR WIFE?
BABY?

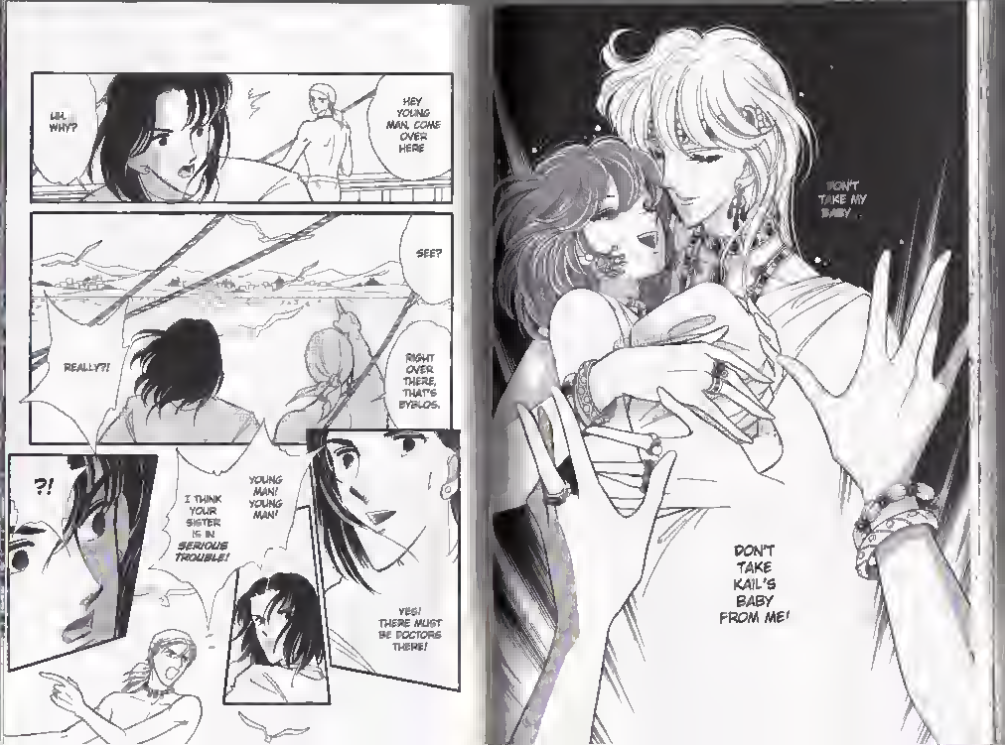
OH...
SHE DOESN'T LOOK WELL.
HAND HER OVER TO US. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.

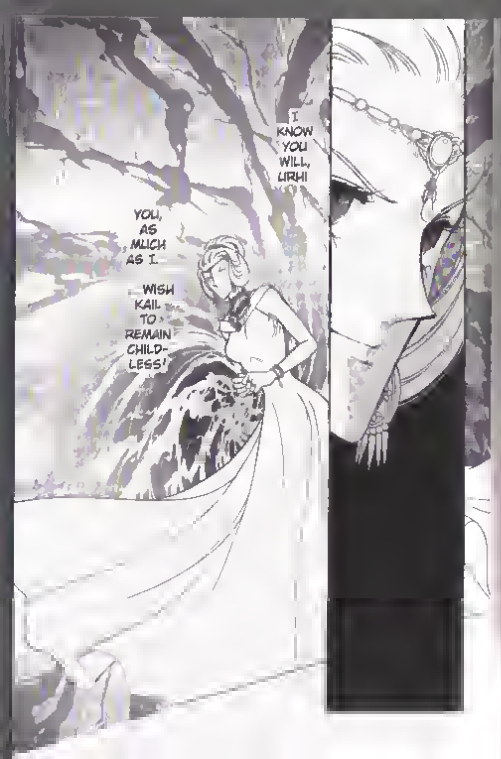
SLAP
DON'T YOU TOUCH HER!
YOU WANT US TO THROW YOU BACK IN THE SEA?
HMPH!
THAT'S GRATITUDE FOR YOU.

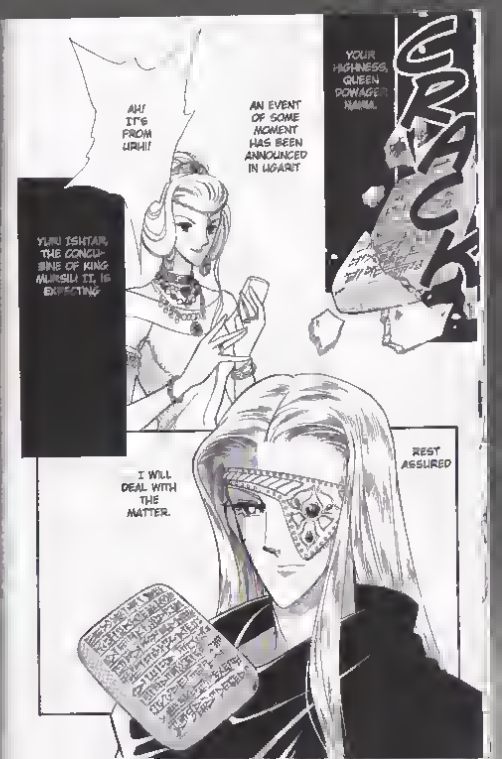
SHE IS MY... MY LITTLE SISTER!
N, NO
SHE'S NOT!
I'VE JUST TAKEN OVER MY FATHER'S BUSINESS
SNIFF
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ONE.
MER-CHANT ?
I'M, I'M A MERCHANT FROM UGARIT
I WAS TAKING HER TO HER WEDDING WHEN OUR SHIP WENT DOWN
WILL YOU PLEASE DO ME A FAVOR?
WILL YOU PUT IN AT A PORT IN UGARIT AND LET US OFF? I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT YOU CAN SWIM TO UGARIT!
A CITY CON-TROLLED BY EGYPT!
BYBLOS ?
ANY DIVER-SION RISKS PUNISH-MENT
NO CAN DO OUR ORDERS ARE TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO BYBLOS
YOU WANT TO GET YOUR SISTER TO A DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT
YOUNG MAN,
I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT BYBLOS IS CLOSER THAN UGARIT
UH...
HUFF
HUFF
UHHH,

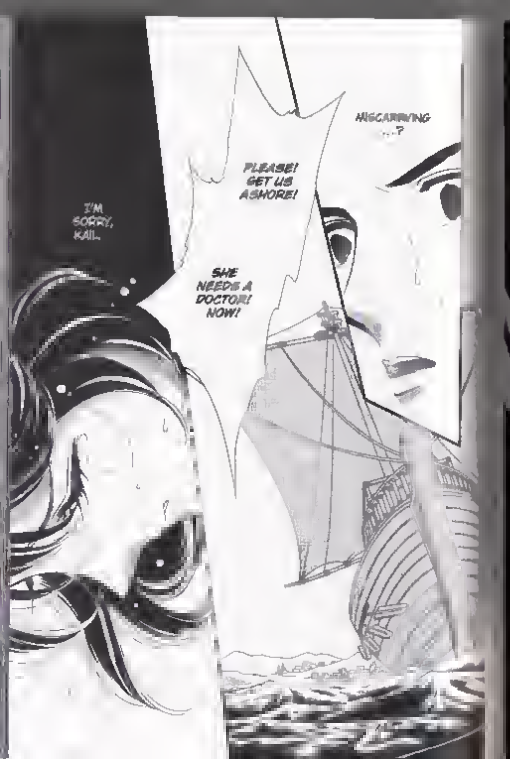

MY STOMACH. MY WHOLE BODY HURTS!
SOMETHING FEELS BROKEN INSIDE! PLEASE, HELP!
PLEASE,
PLEASE HELP MY BABY...

HELP...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ALL... ALL RIGHT!
BYBLOS IT IS! WITH ALL SPEED!
I'D NEED TO GET PRINCESS YURI TO A DOCTOR! THAT HAS FIRST PRIORITY!


UH, WHY?
HEY YOUNG MAN, COME OVER HERE
SEE?
REALLY?!
RIGHT OVER THERE, THAT'S BYBLOS.
?!
I THINK YOUR SISTER IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
YOUNG MAN! YOUNG MAN!
YES! THERE MUST BE DOCTORS THERE!
DON'T TAKE MY BABY...
DON'T TAKE KAIL'S BABY FROM ME!


I KNOW YOU WILL, URHI
YOU, AS MUCH AS I...
WISH KAIL TO REMAIN CHILDLESS!

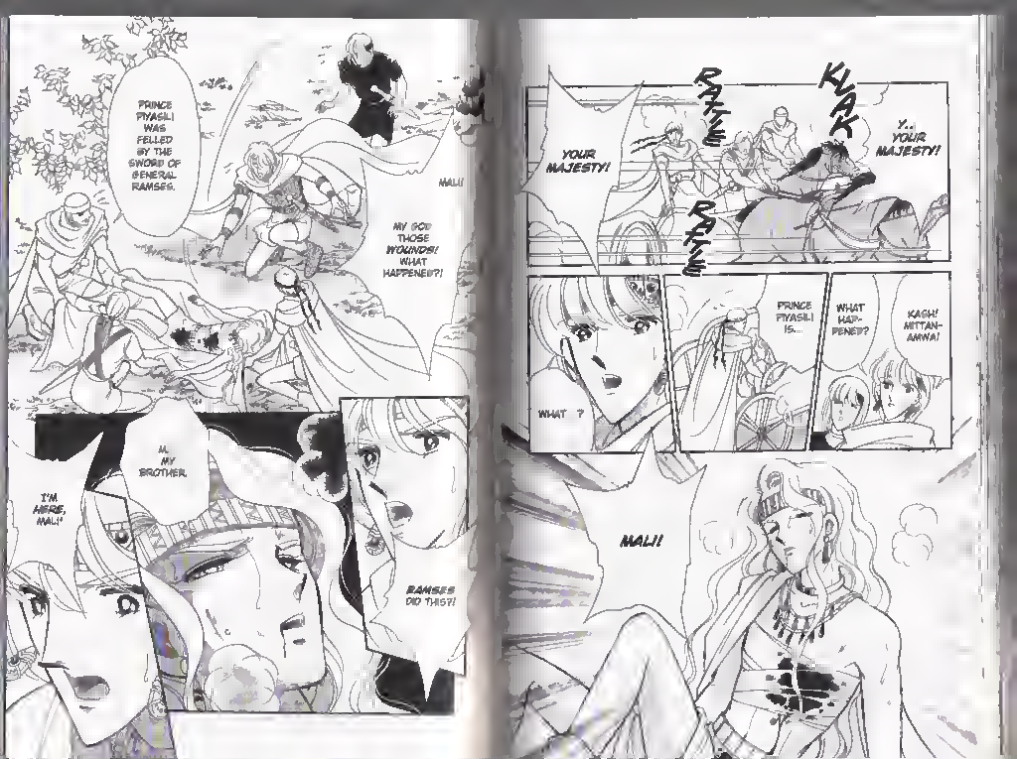

CRACK
YOUR HIGHNESS, QUEEN DOWAGER NAMAL
AN EVENT OF SOME MOMENT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN UGARIT
AH! IT'S FROM URHI!
YUKI ISHTAR, THE CONCUBINE OF KING MURSILI II, IS EXPECTING
I WILL DEAL WITH THE MATTER.
REST ASSURED

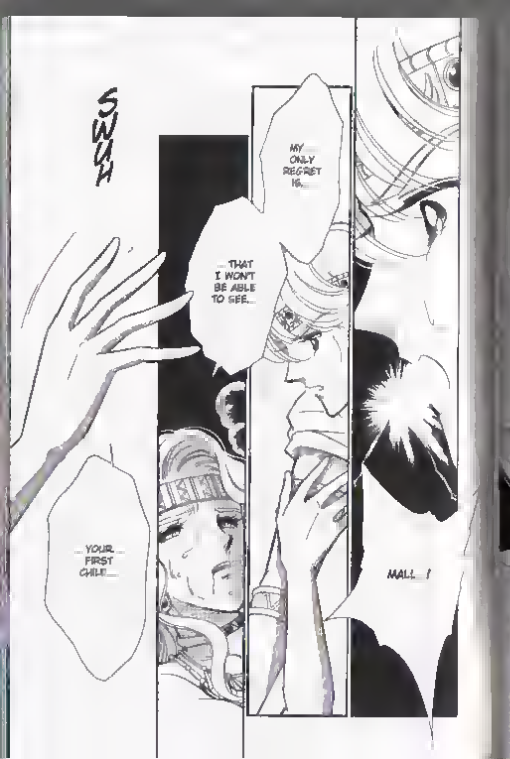

I'M SORRY, KAIL...
SHE NEEDS A DOCTOR! NOW!
PLEASE! GET US ASHORE!
MISCARRYING ...?

!!
NNNGH...
SHE SEEMS TO BE BLEEDING
IF I WERE TO GUESS, I'D SAY SHE'S MISCARRY-ING!

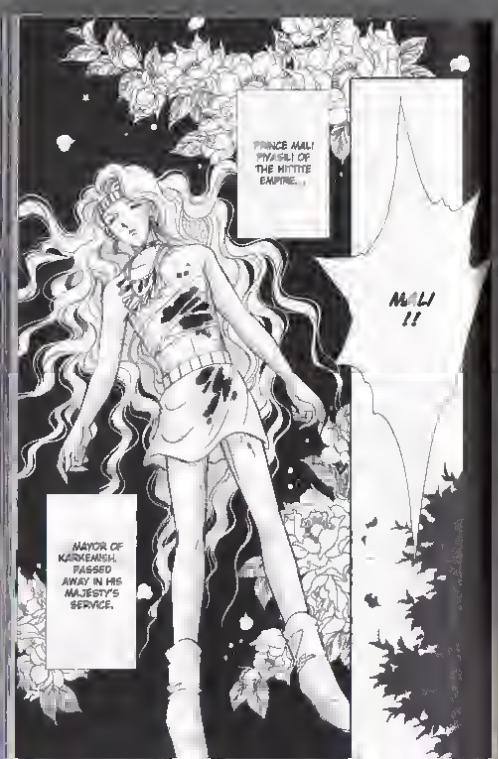
ROAR
RAAAAH
SIR! THE EGYPTIANS HAVE CROSSED THE ORONTES!
YOUR MAJESTY!
THE EGYPTIANS ARE CLOSING IN ON US FROM THE REAR!

ROAR
RAAAAH
WHAT?
ISN'T HE COMMANDING THE REAR GUARD?
WHERE'S MALI?


PRINCE PIYASILI WAS FELLED BY THE SWORD OF GENERAL RAMSES.
MALI!
MY GOD! THOSE WOUNDS! WHAT HAPPENED?!
M, MY BROTHER.
I'M HERE, MAL!
RAMSES DID THIS?!
RATTLE
RATTLE
KLAK
YOUR MAJESTY!
Y... YOUR MAJESTY!!
WHAT ?
PRINCE PIYASILI IS...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
KAGH! METTAN-AMWA!
MALI!


SWISH
MY ONLY REGRET IS...
...THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE...
...YOUR FIRST CHILD...
MALI...!

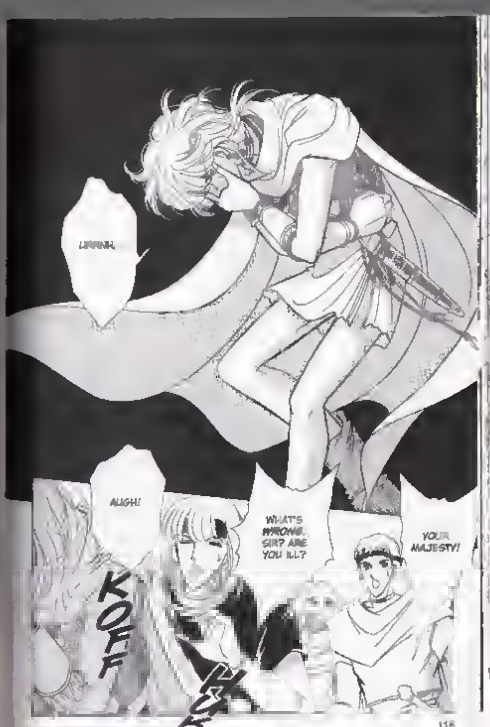
ATONE? FOR WHAT, MALI?!
MY BROTHER.
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME FOR DYING BEFORE I COULD ATONE.
I ASSURE YOU, BROTHER...
...ISHTAR, YOUR PRINCESS YURI, WILL BE BACK SOON
I WILL BE WATCHING THE PASSAGEWAY TO THE OTHER WORLD...
...AND WHEN I SEE ISHTAR, I WILL BAR HER WAY AND TELL HER TO RETURN TO YOU.


PRINCE MALI
PHASE1 OF
THE HITTITE
EMPIRE...
MALI
!!
MAYOR OF
KARKEMISH,
PASSED
AWAY IN HIS
MAJESTY'S
SERVICE.

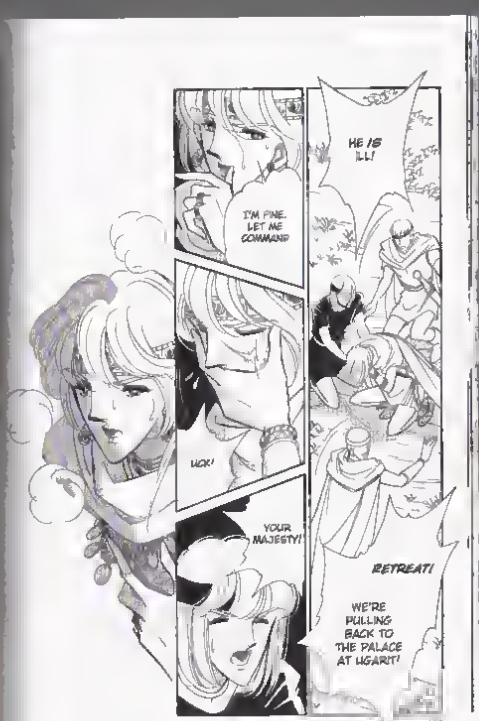
HIS MAJESTY HAS GOTTEN US OUT OF TIGHTER SPOTS...
IF WE DON'T HAVE HIPPA, THE EGYPTIANS WILL BE A PUSHOVER...
WITH PRINCE PIYASILI GONE, WE'RE SHORT OF COMMANDERS.
I WILL ASSUME COMMAND!
VERY WELL!
YOUR MAJESTY!
UNGH!

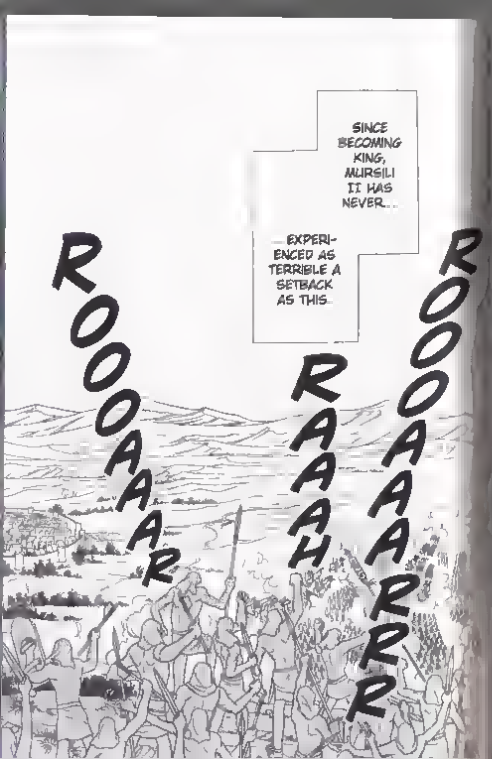
THE EGYPTIANS ARE CLOSING IN!
DO WE STAND? RETREAT? WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?!
I HAVE A REPORT FOR HIS MAJESTY!

UNGH...!
I JUST HAD A TOUCH OF NAUSEA.
OUR DEFENSIVE LINE ISN'T READY!
THE EGYPTIANS WILL BE UPON US SIR!
YOUR MAJESTY SHOULDN'T WE RETREAT?
I'M ALL RIGHT
I KNOW
YOUR MAJESTY


UHHHH
KOFF
KOFF
AUGH!
WHAT'S WRONG, SIR? ARE YOU ILL?
YOUR MAJESTY!

ALL UNITS FORM UP AND RETIRE IN ORDER!

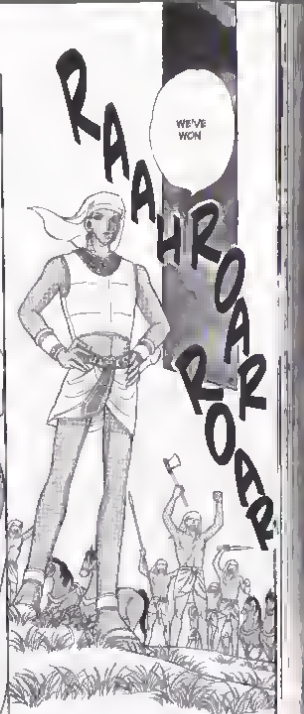

HE IS ILL!
I'M FINE. LET ME COMMAND
UGH!
YOUR MAJESTY!
!RETREAT!
WE'RE PULLING BACK TO THE PALACE AT UGARIT!

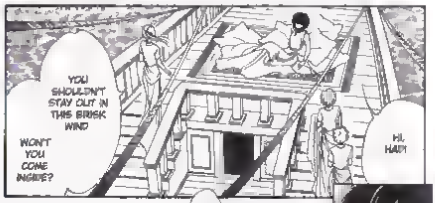

SINCE BECOMING KING, MURSILI II HAS NEVER...
EXPERIENCED AS TERRIBLE A SETBACK AS THIS
ROOOAAAR
RAAAH
ROOOAAARRR

ROAR
RAAH
WE'VE LOST THE BATTLE...

THE PHARAOH HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM THEBES!
GENERAL RAMSES!
ROAR
RATTLE
ROAR
RATTLE
RATTLE
PTUI
S. SIR, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SIR!
HAS HE, NOW? AND JUST IN TIME TO TAKE CREDIT FOR MY VICTORY
I WILL HAND OVER COMMAND TO HIM.
DON'T WORRY

I'M SURPRISED MURSILI II WAS SO ILL PREPARED FOR THIS BATTLE. STILL, I'M PLEASED THAT WE'VE CROSSED THE ORONTES.
AFTER BRINGING UGARIT UNDER EGYPTIAN CONTROL, I WILL MOVE ON TO HATTUSA

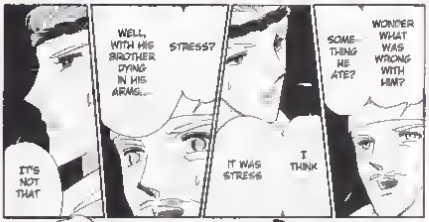

RAAAHROAR
ROAR
WE'VE WON

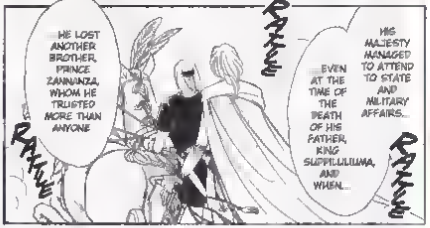

YOU SHOULDN'T STAY OUT IN THIS BRISK WIND
WON'T YOU COME INSIDE?
HI, HAO!

THE SMELL OF THE OCEAN REMINDS ME OF MY CHILDHOOD I FEEL LIKE TAKING A SWIM.
THAT'S RIGHT
I GREW UP IN AN AREA VERY NEAR THE SHORE
YOU ONCE SAID YOU WERE BORN IN A COUNTRY SURROUNDED BY THE SEA
GIVE ME JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, HAO!
THE SEA BREEZE FEELS SO GOOD
I'M A VERY GOOD SWIMMER

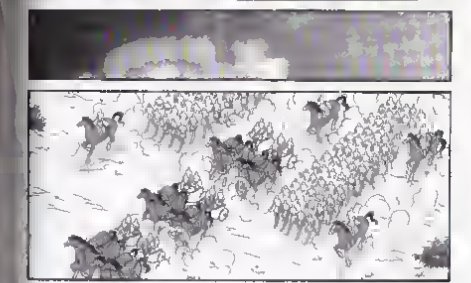
SPWOOSH
PRINCESS YURI!

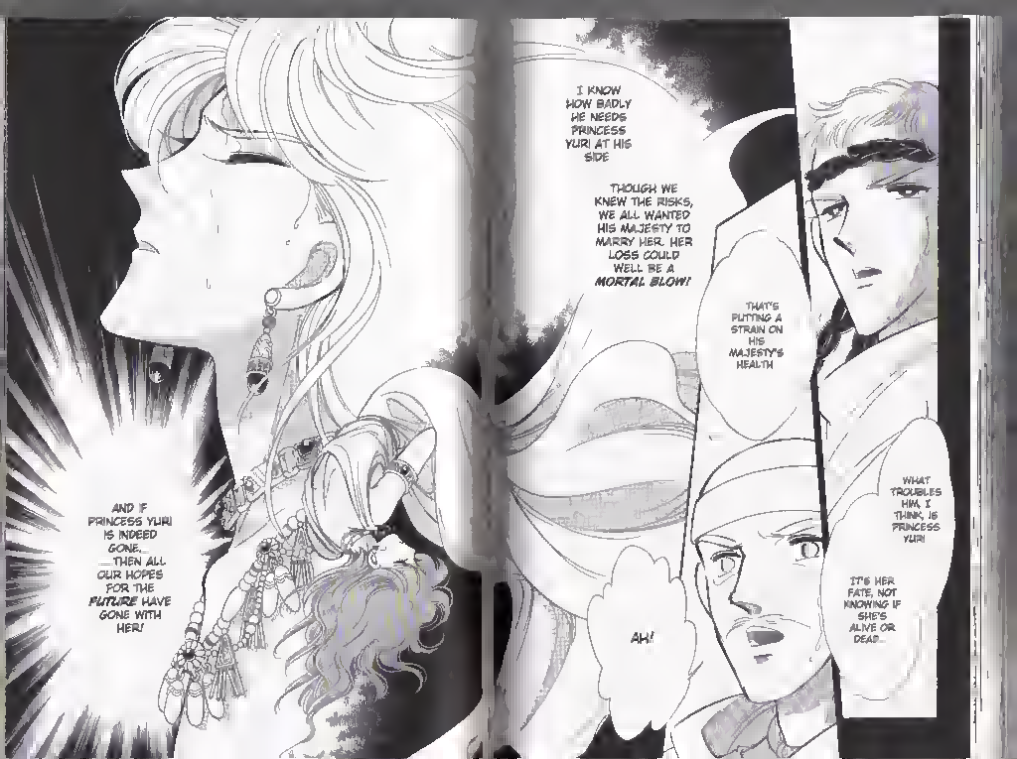
HE SEEMS TO BE FEELING A LITTLE BETTER.
KLAK
HOW IS HIS MAJESTY FARING?

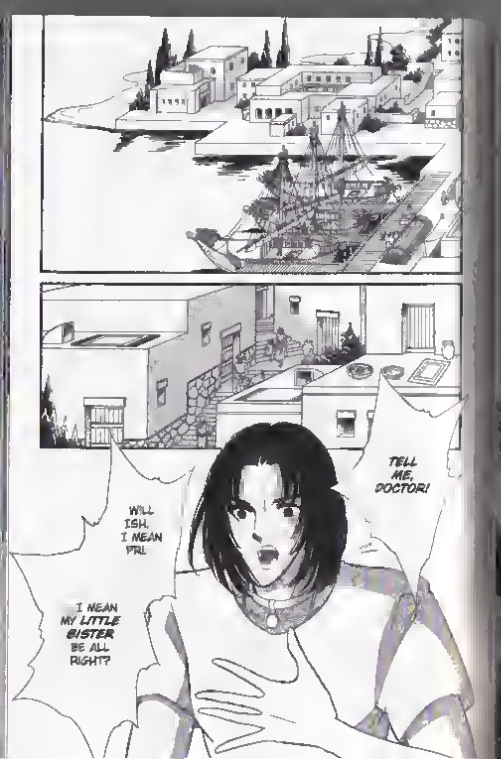

IT'S NOT THAT
WELL, WITH HIS BROTHER DYING IN HIS ARMS...
STRESS?
IT WAS STRESS
I THINK
SOME-THING HE ATE?
WONDER WHAT WAS WRONG WITH HIM?

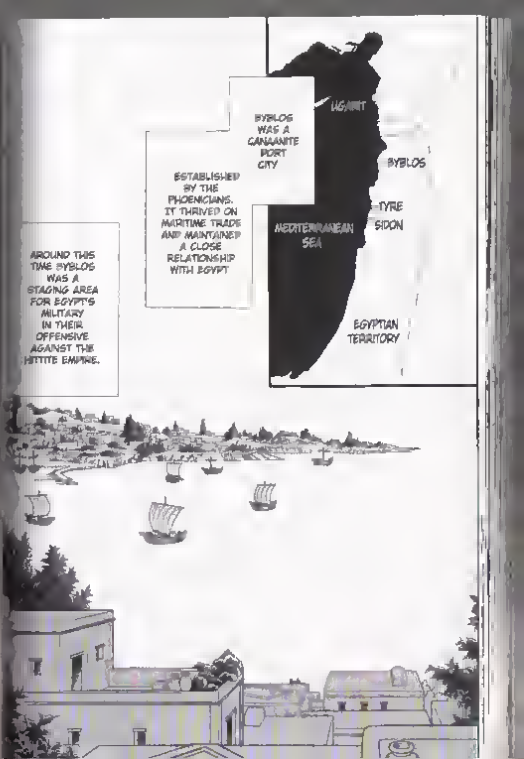

HE LOST ANOTHER BROTHER, PRINCE ZANNANZA, WHOM HE TRUSTED MORE THAN ANYONE
RATTLE
RATTLE
...EVEN AT THE TIME OF THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, KING SUPPILULIUMA, AND WHEN...
HIS MAJESTY MANAGED TO ATTEND TO STATE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS...
RATTLE

AND A VACATION IN BYBLOS SOUNDS MIGHTY APPEALING RIGHT NOW
WITH THE PHARAOH ON THE SCENE, I'M REDUNDANT
I'VE GOT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LEAVE SAVED UP

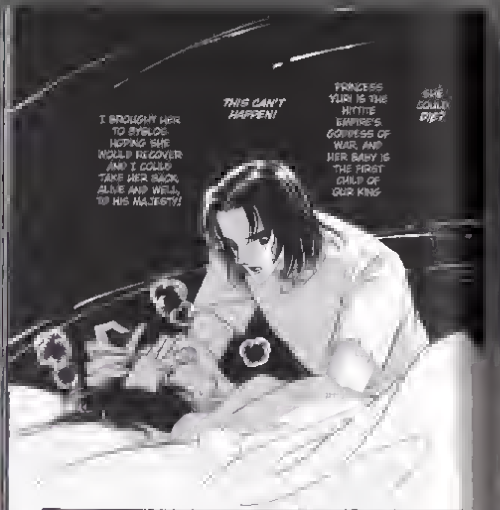


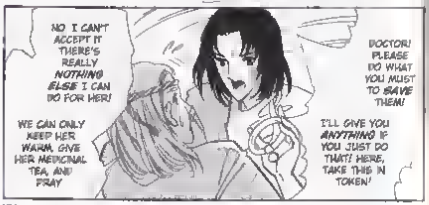

AND IF PRINCESS YURI IS INDEED GONE...
...THEN ALL OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE HAVE GONE WITH HER!
I KNOW HOW BADLY HE NEEDS PRINCESS YURI AT HIS SIDE
THOUGH WE KNEW THE RISKS, WE ALL WANTED HIS MAJESTY TO MARRY HER. HER LOSS COULD WELL BE A MORTAL BLOW!
THAT'S PUTTING A STRAIN ON HIS MAJESTY'S HEALTH
WHAT TROUBLES HIM, I THINK, IS PRINCESS YURI
IT'S HER FATE, NOT KNOWING IF SHE'S ALIVE OR DEAD...
AH!

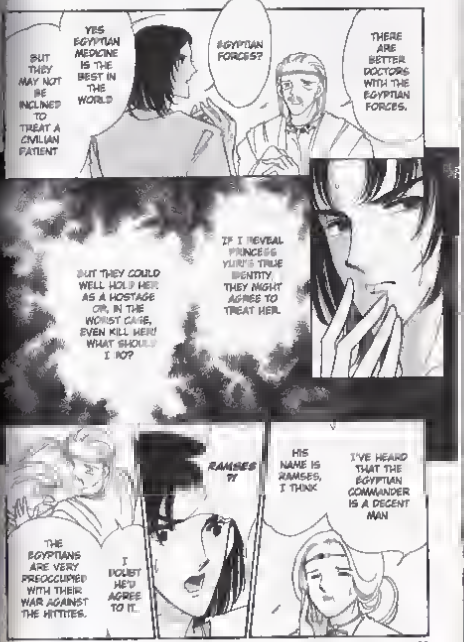

TELL ME, DOCTOR!
WILL ISH. I MEAN YRI.
I MEAN MY LITTLE SISTER BE ALL RIGHT?

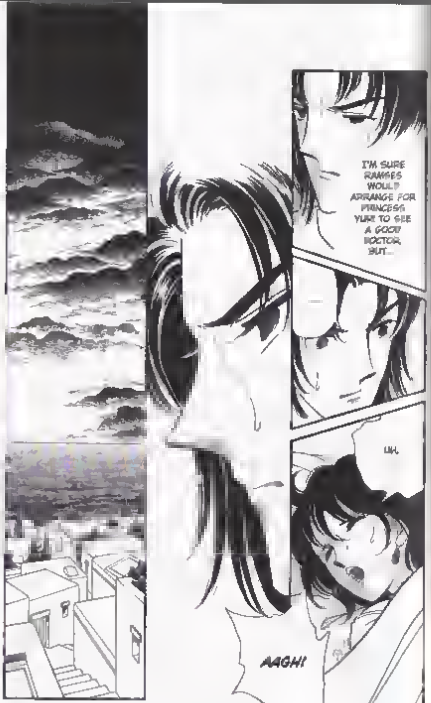

BYBLOS WAS A CANAANITE PORT CITY
ESTABLISHED BY THE PHOENICIANS. IT THRIVED ON MARITIME TRADE AND MAINTAINED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT
AROUND THIS TIME BYBLOS WAS A STAGING AREA FOR EGYPT'S MILITARY IN THEIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE HITTITE EMPIRE.
LEBANON
BYBLOS
TYRE
SIDON
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
EGYPTIAN TERRITORY

YOU SAID SHE'D BEEN IN THE WATER FOR SOME TIME AFTER THE SHIPWRECK.
THAT ORDEAL HAS CERTAINLY WEAKENED HER.
OH MY GOD!
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THINGS LOOK
HUFF
UNNH.
IT'S NOT JUST HER BABY... HER OWN LIFE IS IN GRAVE PERIL..
HUFF
UNNH. AAAH!
THAT CAN'T BE.
AAAH.


I BROUGHT HER TO BYBLOS HOPING SHE WOULD RECOVER AND I COULD TAKE HER BACK, ALIVE AND WELL, TO HIS MAJESTY!
THIS CAN'T HAPPEN!
PRINCESS YURI IS THE HITTITE EMPIRE'S GODDESS OF WAR, AND HER BABY IS THE FIRST CHILD OF OUR KING
SHE COULD DIE?

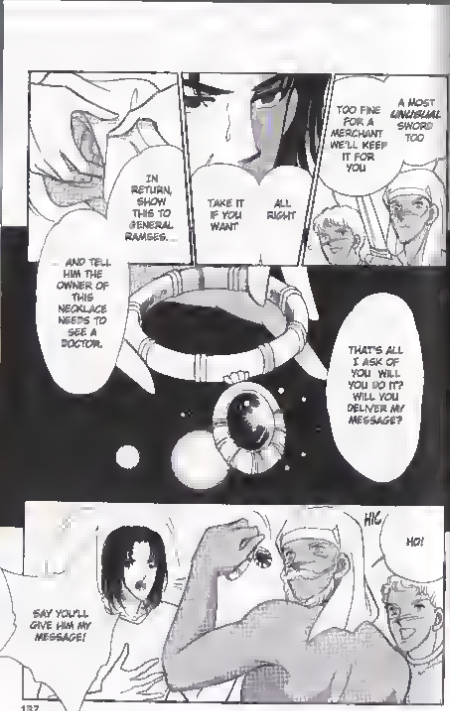

NO. I CAN'T ACCEPT IT. THERE'S REALLY NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR HER!
WE CAN ONLY KEEP HER WARM, GIVE HER MEDICINAL TEA, AND PRAY
DOCTOR! PLEASE DO WHAT YOU MUST TO SAVE THEM!
I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING IF YOU JUST DO THAT! HERE, TAKE THIS IN TOKEN!

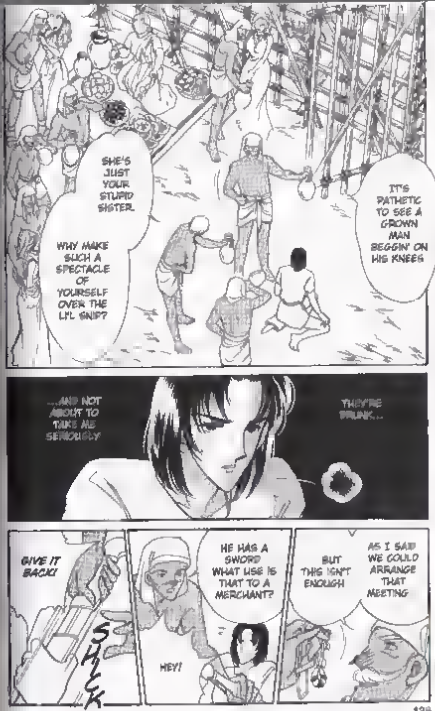

I'VE HEARD THAT THE EGYPTIAN COMMANDER IS A DECENT MAN
HIS NAME IS RAMSES, I THINK
RAMSES ??
I DOUBT HE'D AGREE TO IT.
THE EGYPTIANS ARE VERY PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR WAR AGAINST THE HITTITES.
IF I REVEAL PRINCESS YURI'S TRUE IDENTITY, THEY MIGHT AGREE TO TREAT HER.
BUT THEY COULD WELL HOLD HER AS A HOSTAGE OR, IN THE WORST CASE, EVEN KILL HER! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THERE ARE BETTER DOCTORS WITH THE EGYPTIAN FORCES.
EGYPTIAN FORCES?
YES EGYPTIAN MEDICINE IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD
BUT THEY MAY NOT BE INCLINED TO TREAT A CIVILIAN PATIENT


AAGH!
UH.
I'M SURE RAMSES WOULD ARRANGE FOR PRINCESS YURI TO SEE A GOOD DOCTOR, BUT...

?!
FORGET IT!
HERE, TO COMPENSATE YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS...
PLEASE! IT'S IMPORTANT!
WE MIGHT ARRANGE THAT MEETING FOR YOU, AFTER ALL
HO! THIS LOOKS EXPENSIVE.
YOU! YOU'RE, THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE ON THE CANAANITE SHIP!
!!

BYBLOS, THE EGYPTIAN'S CAMPSITE...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WHY WOULD HIS EXCELLENCY WISH TO WASTE HIS TIME ON A CIVILIAN?
YOU WANT TO SEE GENERAL RAMSES?
I BEG YOU!
PLEASE ASK YOUR SUPERIOR TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH GENERAL RAMSES FOR ME!
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE!
I KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING MUST SEEM RIDICULOUS.

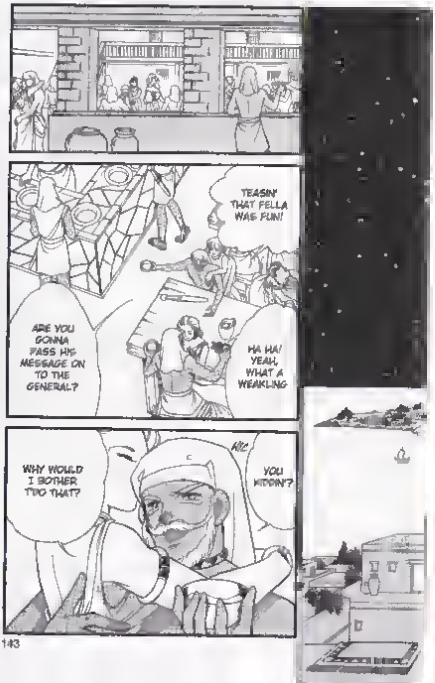

A MOST UNUSUAL SWORD TOO
TOO FINE FOR A MERCHANT WE'LL KEEP IT FOR YOU
ALL RIGHT
TAKE IT IF YOU WANT
IN RETURN, SHOW THIS TO GENERAL RAMSES...
...AND TELL HIM THE OWNER OF THIS NECKLACE NEEDS TO SEE A DOCTOR.
THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU. WILL YOU DO IT? WILL YOU DELIVER MY MESSAGE?
HIC
HO!
SAY YOU'LL GIVE HIM MY MESSAGE!


SHE'S JUST YOUR STUPID SISTER.
WHY MAKE SUCH A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF OVER THE LI'L SNIP?
IT'S PATHETIC TO SEE A GROWN MAN BEGGIN' ON HIS KNEES
...AND NOT ABOUT TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!
THEY'RE DRUNK...
GIVE IT BACK!
SHECK
HEY!
HE HAS A SWORD WHAT USE IS THAT TO A MERCHANT?
BUT THIS ISN'T ENOUGH
AS I SAID WE COULD ARRANGE THAT MEETING

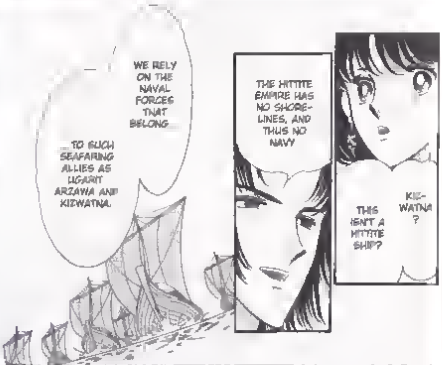
"PLEASE!"
I DIDN'T HEAR YOU SAY...
!!
SAY "PLEASE!"
WHOMP
SAY IT!

SHOVE
BOW TO THE GROUND AND SAY "PLEASE GIVE MY MESSAGE TO GENERAL RAMSES."
HIC
THIS YOUR WAY OF ASKIN FOR A FAVOR? HOW RUDE!
HIC
WHAT AN INSOLENT FELLOW YOU ARE!
STILL, CAN'T FAULT YOU FOR A LACK OF PRIDE
DO IT MERCHANT NOW!
SNIRK
SNIRK
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
SNIRK
SNIRK
YOU WANT TO ARRANGE A DOCTOR FOR YOUR LITTLE SISTER WHO IS ABOUT TO MISCARRY, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU WANT US TO RELAY YOUR MESSAGE TO THE GENERAL, DON'T YOU?

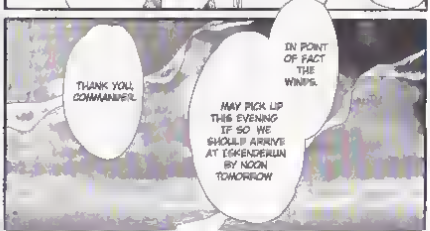
HA HA HA
CACKLE
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
IS HE REALLY A MAN?
LOOK HE'S TOO SCARED TO STAND UP
HAHPA!
JUST A LOWLY WORM.
HA HA HA
HE'S STILL ON THAT NONSENSE!
PLEASE!
LET'S GO.
PTUI
TAKE THE NECKLACE TO GENERAL RAMSES FOR ME!
HEH HEH
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
HEH HEH HEH
SNEER
I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY "PLEASE," EH?
SNEER
THEN YOU DON'T WANT US TO CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE?
PLEASE TAKE MY MESSAGE TO GENERAL RAMSES
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR.

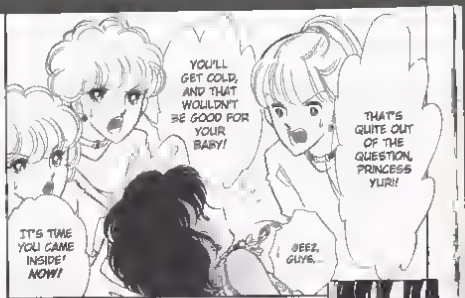

TEASIN' THAT FELLA WAS FUN!
ARE YOU GONNA PASS HIS MESSAGE ON TO THE GENERAL?
HA HA! YEAH, WHAT A WEAKLING
WHY WOULD I BOTHER TYPO THAT?
HU?
YOU WITDIN'?

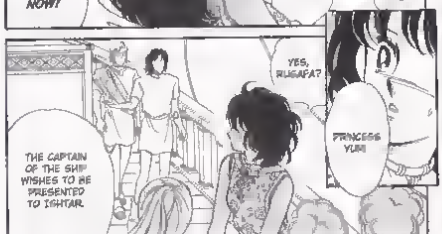
IF I CAN'T SEE RAMSES.
HUFF
HUFF
HELP
HELP MY BABY
PRINCESS YURI MAY NOT SURVIVE!
MAKE FUN OF ME IF YOU WANT!
BUT WHILE I HAVE NO REASON TO TRUST EGYPTIANS, I KNOW OF NO ONE ELSE TO ASK!


WE RELY ON THE NAVAL FORCES THAT BELONG...
...TO SUCH SEAFARING ALLIES AS UGARIT ARZAWA AND KIZWATNA.
THE HITTITE EMPIRE HAS NO SHORELINES, AND THUS NO NAVY
THIS ISN'T A HITTITE SHIP?
KIZWATNA?

AND A SPEEDY PASSAGE. JUST RELAX AND ENJOY THE CRUISE
WE WILL SEE TO YOUR SAFETY
EVERYONE ON BOARD IS FAITHFUL TO KING NURGAL! IT

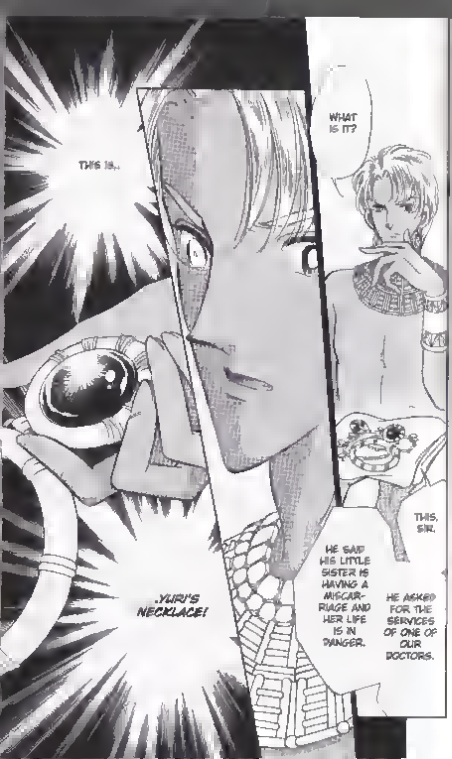

THANK YOU, COMMANDER.
IN POINT OF FACT THE WINDS
MAY PICK UP THIS EVENING IF SO WE SHOULD ARRIVE AT ISKENDERUN BY NOON TOMORROW

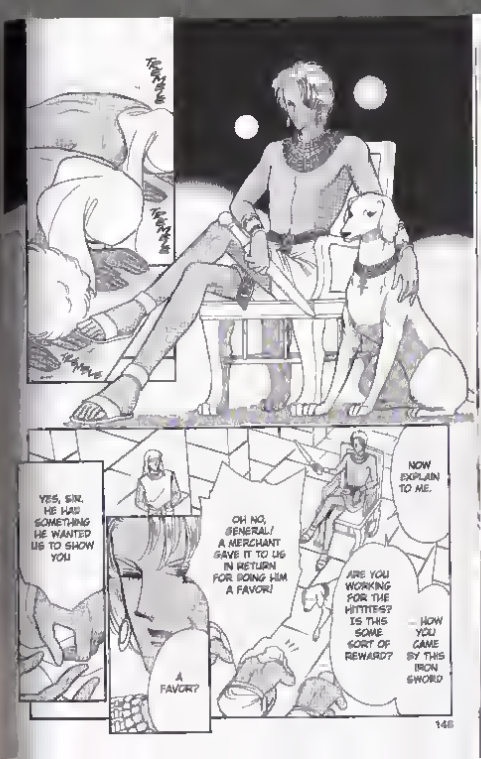

YOU'LL GET COLD, AND THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR YOUR BABY!
THAT'S QUITE OUT OF THE QUESTION, PRINCESS YURI!
IT'S TIME YOU CAME INSIDE! NOW!
SEEZ, GUYS...

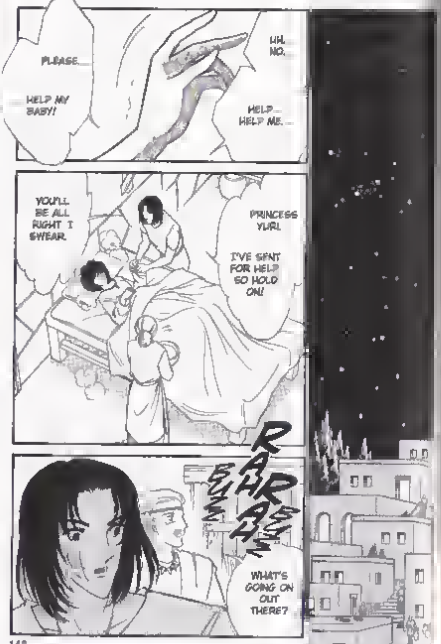

YES, RUSAFA?
PRINCESS YURI
THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP WISHES TO BE PRESENTED TO ISHTAR.

THE NATION OF KIZWATNA IS HONORED TO HAVE YOU ABOARD IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH WE CAN MAKE YOUR VOYAGE MORE PLEASANT JUST SAY SO.
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING GREETED YOU EARLIER, ISHTAR.
I AM REGIL, COMMANDER OF THIS FLEET

GULP!
COME ON!
I'M TAKING THIS MATTER TO GENERAL RAMSES!!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! THIS HAS AN IRON BLADE!
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD AFFORD IT!
ONLY THE HITTITES MAKE SUCH WEAPONS, AND THEY'RE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE!
HUH! THIS SWORD'S REALLY SOMETHIN'.
IT DON'T LOOK LIKE BRONZE.
YER RIGHT
ONCE WE SELL THIS JEWELRY WE CAN HAVE LOTS MORE FUN.
WHERE AND HOW DID YOU OBTAIN THIS SWORD?
UH.. WE.. WE BOUGHT IT FROM A MERCHANT FROM UGARIT SIR.
HEY! LET ME SEE THAT SWORD
OH! COMMANDER WASET!

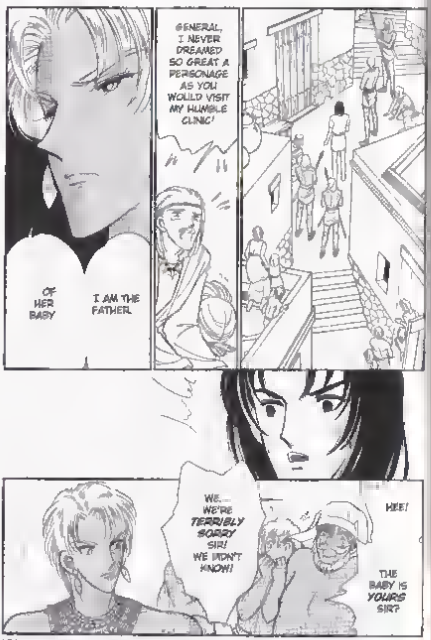

THIS IS...
WHAT IS IT?
THIS, SIR.
HE ASKED FOR THE SERVICES OF ONE OF OUR DOCTORS.
HE SAID HIS LITTLE SISTER IS HAVING A MISCARRIAGE AND HER LIFE IS IN DANGER.
..YURI'S NECKLACE!


TRUMPS
TRUMPS
NOW EXPLAIN TO ME.
ARE YOU WORKING FOR THE HITTITES? IS THIS SOME SORT OF REWARD?
— HOW YOU CAME BY THIS IRON SWORD
OH NO, GENERAL! A MERCHANT GAVE IT TO US IN RETURN FOR DOING HIM A FAVOR!
A FAVOR?
YES, SIR. HE HAS SOMETHING HE WANTED US TO SHOW YOU


PLEASE...
HELP MY BABY!
UH, NO.
HELP... HELP ME...
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT I SWEAR.
PRINCESS YURI
I'VE SENT FOR HELP SO HOLD ON!
RAHRRR
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

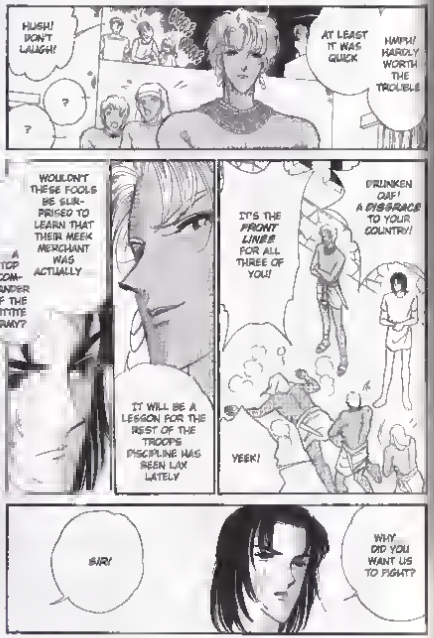
WAGE!
SUMMON MY BEST SURGEONS!
IF THIS MERCHANT'S SISTER DIES...
SO WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?
YES, SIR.
YANK
TAKE ME TO THIS GIRL— AND HUSTLE! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
I'LL PERSONALLY DRAG YOU BACK TO EGYPT AND FEED YOU TO THE CROCO-DILES!
AWK!

BA
NG
YUYU! IS SHE STILL ALIVE?!
GENERAL RAMSES!
GENERAL RAMSES? HERE?! OH MY!
HMM. THIS GIRL IS IN A BAD WAY
LADY BRING US MORE HOT WATER!
ALL MEN, PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM.
RUSAFA! I KNEW IT WAS YOU.
I'VE BROUGHT THE DOCTORS YOU REQUESTED


GENERAL, I NEVER DREAMED SO GREAT A PERSONAGE AS YOU WOULD VISIT MY HUMBLE CLINIC!
OF HER BABY
I AM THE FATHER.
WE... WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY SIR! WE DON'T KNOW!
HEE!
THE BABY IS YOURS SIR?

THE WRETCHED FELLOW'S FROZEN IN FEAR!
HE CAN'T EVEN DEFEND HIMSELF!
SWUF
?!

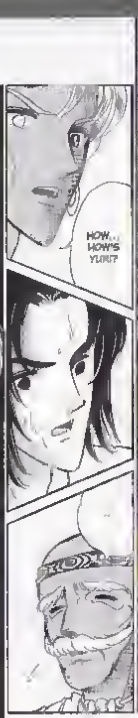
?!
TSP!
WHO SCARRED THIS MAN'S FACE?
PERHAPS I'LL THROW YOU IN THE NILE AFTER ALL.
N, NO SIR, PLEASE! FORGIVE ME!
TELL YOU WHAT FIGHT THIS MAN HAND-TO-HAND. IF YOU WIN, YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THIS POSES MUCH OF A CHALLENGE TO AN EGYPTIAN SOLDIER.
THE GENERAL DOESN'T KNOW THE MERCHANT IS A COWARD
RIGHT YOUR KAMRATE WILL WIN EASILY
RAAARR!


HUSH! DON'T LAUGH!
?
?
AT LEAST IT WAS QUICK
HMPH! HARDLY WORTH THE TROUBLE
A TOP COMMANDER OF THE HITTITE ARMY?
WOULDN'T THESE FOOLS BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THEIR MEEK MERCHANT WAS ACTUALLY
IT WILL BE A LESSON FOR THE REST OF THE TROOPS DISCIPLINE HAS BEEN LAX LATELY
IT'S THE FRONT LINES FOR ALL THREE OF YOU!
YEEK!
DRUNKEN OAF! A DISGRACE TO YOUR COUNTRY!
SIR!
WHY DID YOU WANT US TO FIGHT?

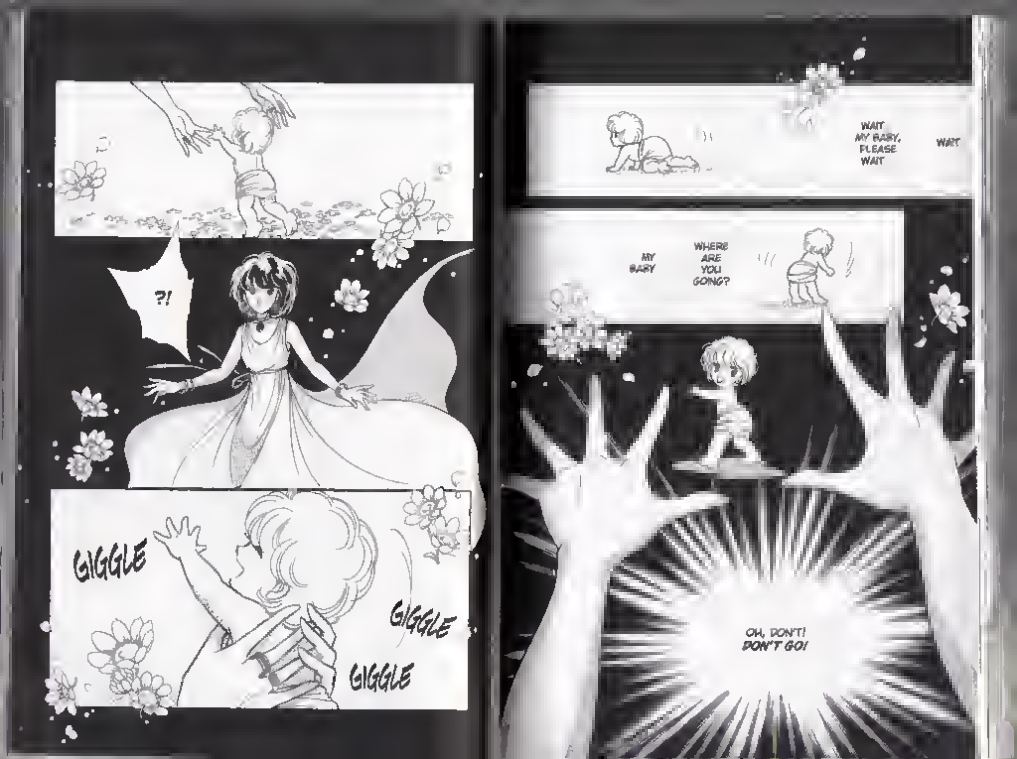
JUMP
?!
THUD
?

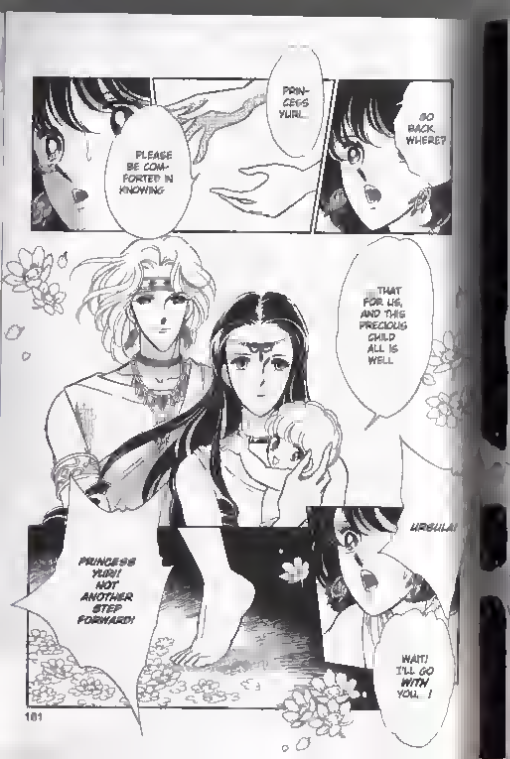
SHE LOST THE CHILD.

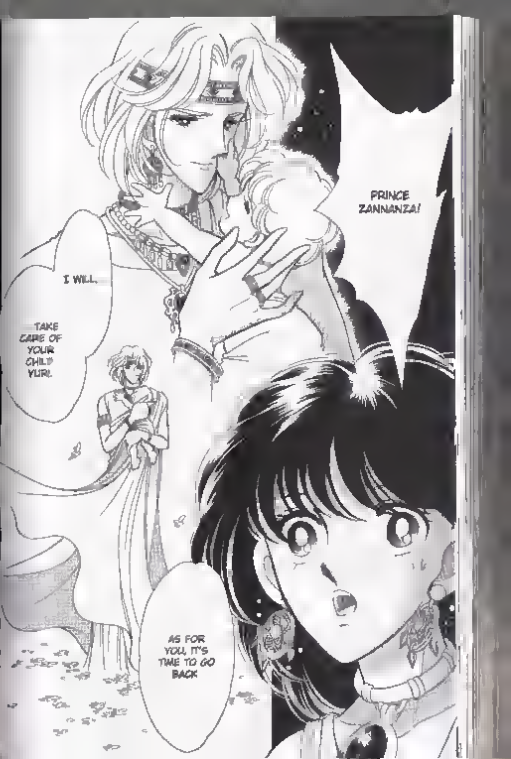
WE COULDN'T...
...PREVENT THE MISCAR-RIAGE.

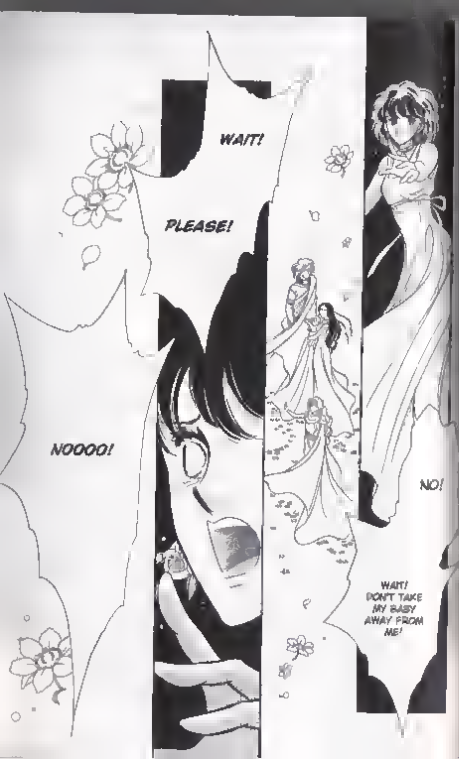

HOW... HOW'S YUKI?

DOCTOR?!

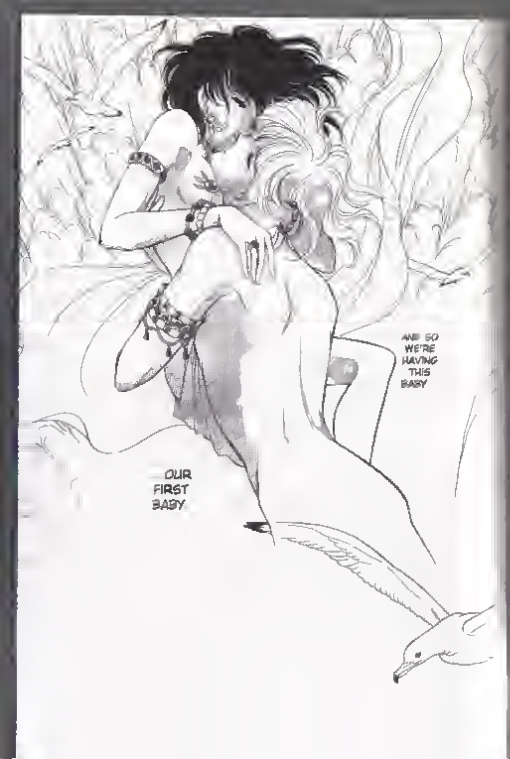

?!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
WAIT, MY BABY, PLEASE WAIT
WAIT
MY BABY
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OH, DON'T! DON'T GO!


PRINCESS YURI...
GO BACK, WHERE?
PLEASE BE COMFORTED IN KNOWING
THAT FOR US, AND THIS PRECIOUS CHILD ALL IS WELL
URSULA!
PRINCESS YURI! NOT ANOTHER STEP FORWARD!
WAIT! I'LL GO WITH YOU...!

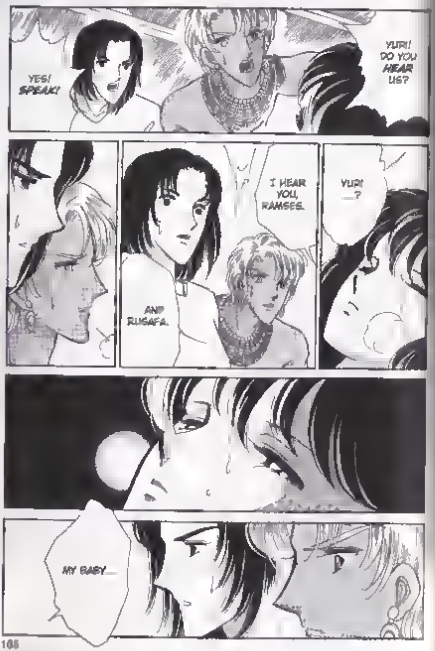

PRINCE ZANNANZA!
I WILL.
TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHILD YURI.
AS FOR YOU, IT'S TIME TO GO BACK

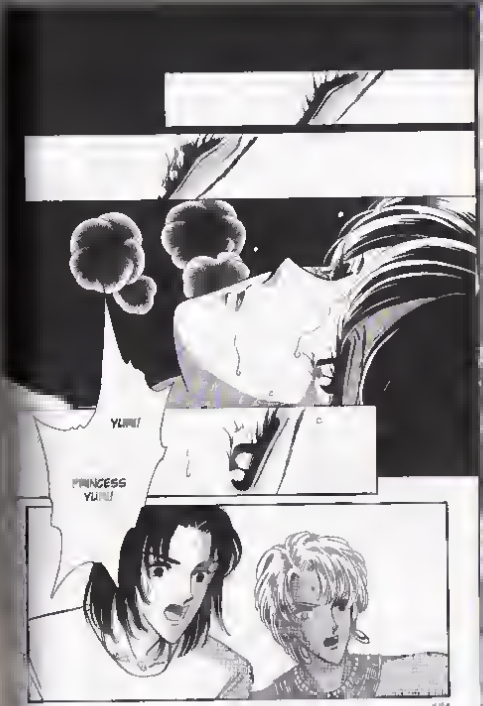

WAIT!
PLEASE!
NOOOO!
NO!
WAIT! DON'T TAKE MY BABY AWAY FROM ME!

?!
PRINCE MAL!!
FWIP
AND TO MY BROTHER KARL, WHO WAITS FOR YOU!
WE FOUR BELONG HERE, IN THE AFTERLIFE
YOU, HOWEVER, DO NOT RETURN TO LIFE...

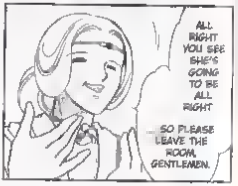

OUR FIRST BABY
AND SO WE'RE HAVING THIS BABY

MOM AND DAD YOU'D BE SHOCKED TO KNOW I'M PREGNANT
BUT YOU'D FORGIVE ME WOULDN'T YOU?
KAIL AND I... WE'RE JUST SO MUCH IN LOVE


YES! SPEAK!
YURI! DO YOU HEAR US?
I HEAR YOU, RAMSES.
AND RUGAFA.
YURI —?
MY BABY...


YURI!
PRINCESS YURI!

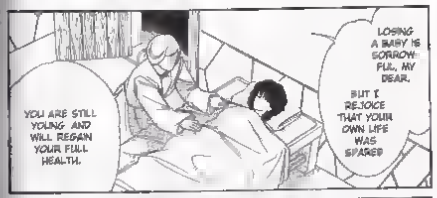
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU SURVIVED THIS YURI.
TRY TO GET SOME REST NOW


ALL RIGHT YOU SEE SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT
SO PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM, GENTLEMEN.

MY BABY
IS WITH MALI. URSULA. ZAINIANZA.

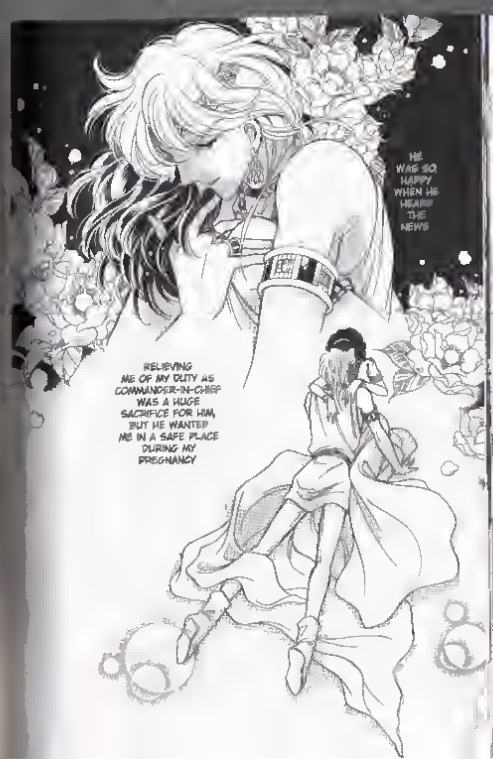
PERHAPS I WILL HAVE MORE CHILDREN.
BUT THEY WILL NOT BE THE ONE I LOST
HOW WILL I BEAR IT?
AND HOW WILL I EXPLAIN IT TO KAIL?
KUHN

SHE CANNOT YET WEEP FOR HER LOSS.
THIS HAS BEEN SUCH A TRAUMA.
TRAUMA, RUSAFA? LOSS? CAN SUCH WORDS EVEN BEGIN TO EXPRESS WHAT SHE HAS EXPERIENCED?

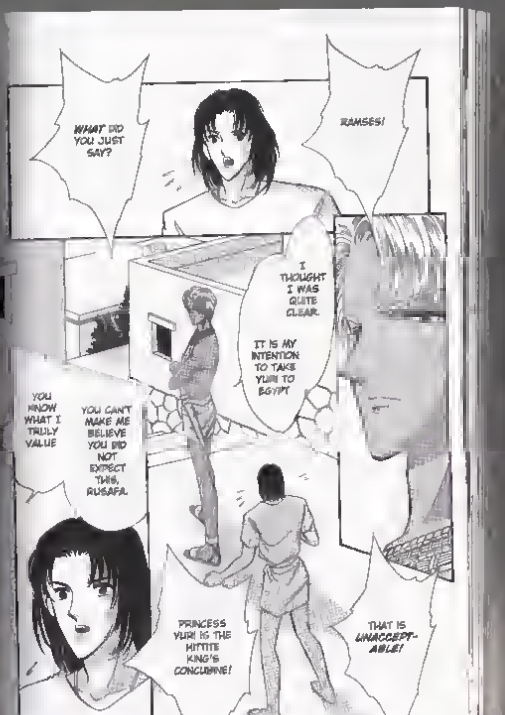

LOSING A BABY IS SORROWFUL, MY DEAR.
BUT I REJOICE THAT YOUR OWN LIFE WAS SPARED
YOU ARE STILL YOUNG AND WILL REGAIN YOUR FULL HEALTH.

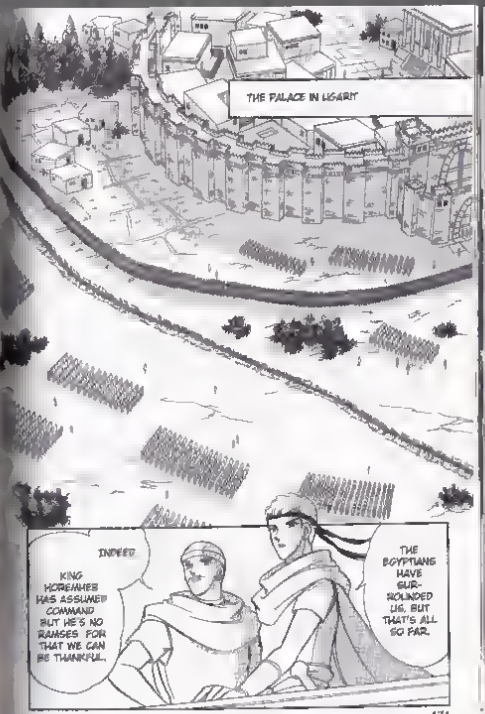
A FRUITFUL FUTURE REST NOW
THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT..

HIS BABY! HOW CAN I EXPECT HIM TO FORGIVE SUCH A FAILURE?
EVEN SO, I LOST THE BABY!

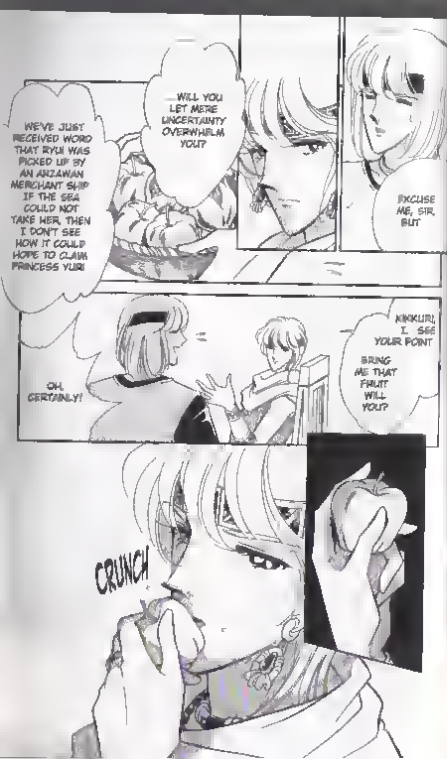

HE WAS SO HAPPY WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS
RELIEVING ME OF MY DUTY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WAS A HUGE SACRIFICE FOR HIM, BUT HE WANTED ME IN A SAFE PLACE DURING MY PREGNANCY

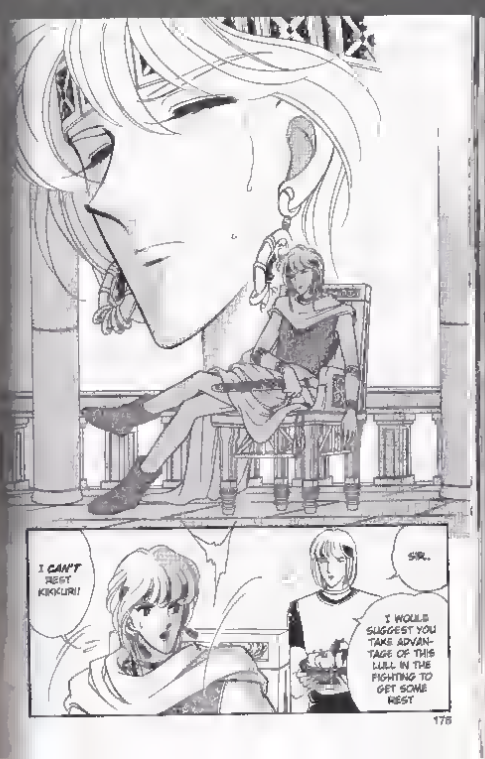
I'VE MADE NO SECRET OF MY DESIRE
TO HAVE YURI FOR MY OWN.
A MAN LIKE YOU WOULD NOT BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO THINK TO SEND HER BACK TO MURSILI

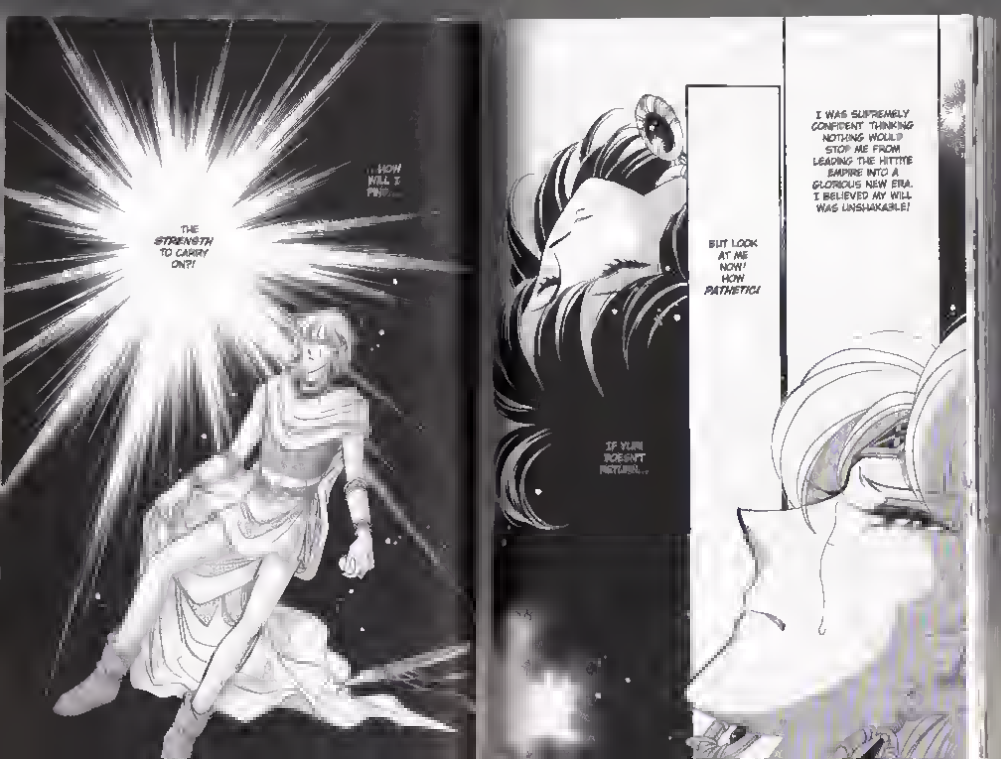

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
RAMSES!
I THOUGHT I WAS QUITE CLEAR.
IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE YURI TO EGYPT
YOU KNOW WHAT I TRULY VALUE
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME BELIEVE YOU DID NOT EXPECT THIS, RUSAFA.
PRINCESS YURI IS THE HITTITE KING'S CONCUBINE!
THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE!


THE PALACE IN UGARIT
THE EGYPTIANS HAVE SURROUNDED US, BUT THAT'S ALL SO FAR.
INDEED. KING HOREMHEB HAS ASSUMED COMMAND BUT HE'S NO RAMSES. FOR THAT WE CAN BE THANKFUL.

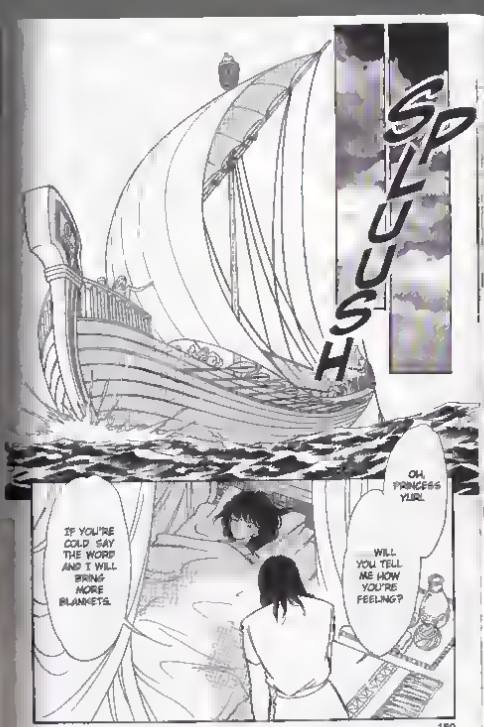
BY THE WAY... ... HOW IS HIS MAJESTY DOING?
HE'S CARRYING OUT HIS MILITARY DUTIES AND SEEING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF UGARIT BUT... HIS HEALTH REMAINS A QUESTION.
I AGREE
HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE.
EVEN WHEN HE DOES EAT, HE CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP IT DOWN.


WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT RYU! WAS PICKED UP BY AN ARJAWAN MERCHANT SHIP IF THE SEA COULD NOT TAKE HER, THEN I DON'T SEE HOW IT COULD HOPE TO CLAIM PRINCESS YURI
...WILL YOU LET MERE UNCERTAINTY OVERWHELM YOU?
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT
OH, CERTAINLY!
KIKKURI, I SEE YOUR POINT
BRING ME THAT FRUIT WILL YOU?
CRUNCH

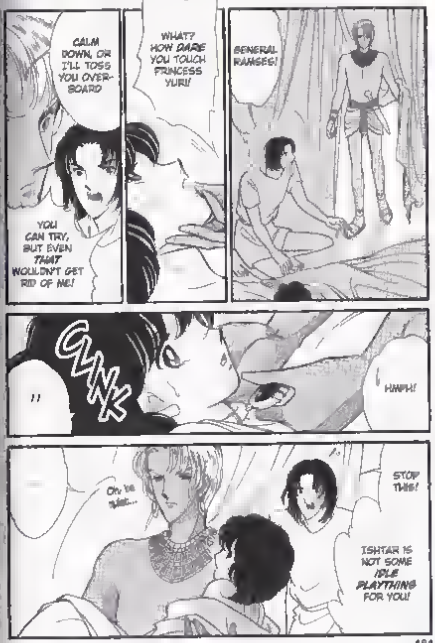

I CAN'T REST KIKKURI!
SIR,
I WOULD SUGGEST YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LULL IN THE FIGHTING TO GET SOME REST


I WAS SUPREMELY CONFIDENT THINKING NOTHING WOULD STOP ME FROM LEADING THE HITTITE EMPIRE INTO A GLORIOUS NEW ERA. I BELIEVED MY WILL WAS UNSHAKABLE!
BUT LOOK AT ME NOW! HOW PATHETIC!
IF YURI DOESN'T RETURN...
...HOW WILL I FIND...
THE STRENGTH TO CARRY ON?!

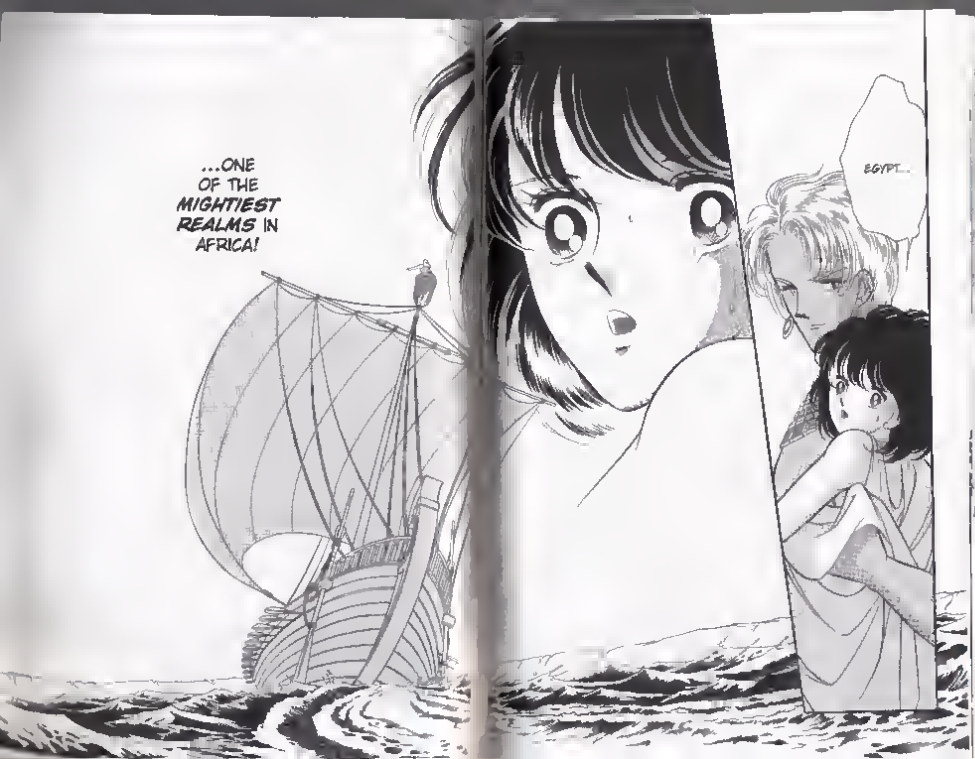
I SWEAR TO YOU, PRINCESS YURI, I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO RETURN YOU TO HIS MAJESTY...
...BUT AT THE MOMENT I DARE NOT ATTEMPT IT. YOU'RE STILL FAR TOO WEAK
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM ABOUT ALL THIS
ONCE YOU'VE RECOVERED YOUR HEALTH, I'LL
IT'S OKAY RUSAFA
BYBLOS OR EGYPT IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME
WHAT?

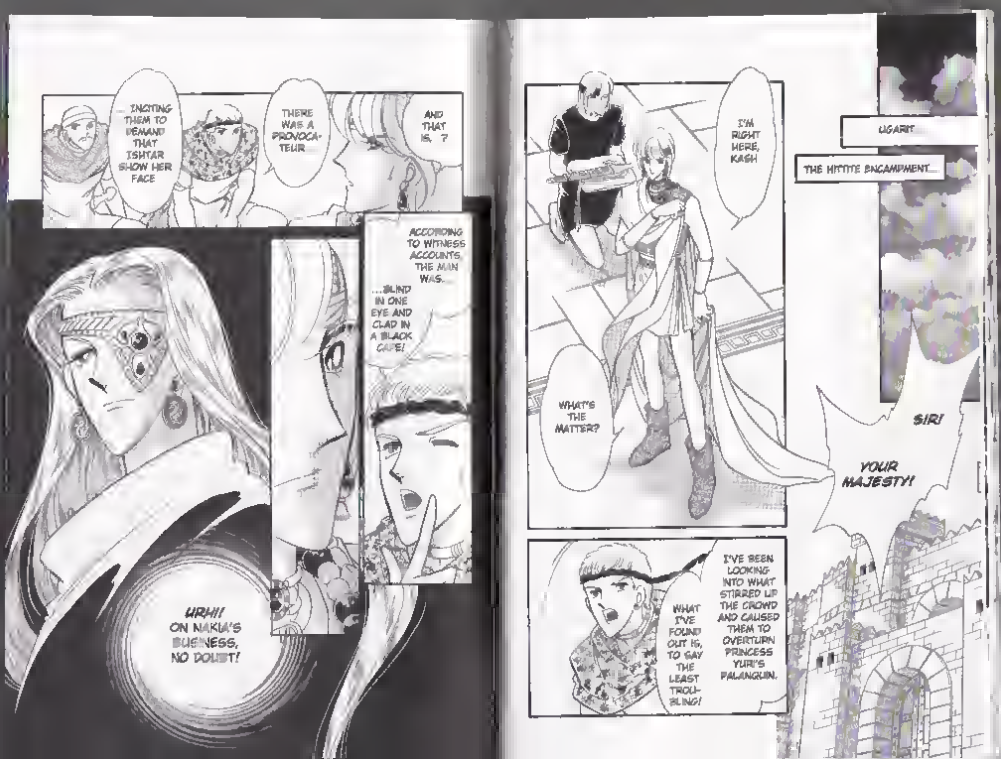

SPLUUSH
OH, PRINCESS YURI.
WILL YOU TELL ME HOW YOU'RE FEELING?
IF YOU'RE COLD SAY THE WORD AND I WILL BRING MORE BLANKETS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT PRINCESS YURI?
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I SWEAR I WILL GET YOU BACK TO HIS MAJESTY!
I DO NOT DOUBT YOU, RUSAFA.
BUT HOW CAN I FACE HIM AFTER LOSING HIS BABY?
OF COURSE, I WANT TO SEE HIM.
...I NEED TO SEE HIM, TO HAVE HIM HOLD ME
PRINCESS YURI!
EVEN IF I DID MAKE IT HOME.
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I COULD SAY TO KAIL


CALM DOWN, OR I'LL TOSS YOU OVER-BOARD
YOU CAN TRY, BUT EVEN THAT WOULDN'T GET RID OF ME!
WHAT? HOW DARE YOU TOUCH PRINCESS YURI!
GENERAL RAMSES!
CLNK
!!
HMPH!
OH, SO QUIET...
STOP THIS!
ISHTAR IS NOT SOME IDLE PLAYTHING FOR YOU!

OVER THERE.
IN THE NEAR DISTANCE, IS EGYPT
?!
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE, YURI
OH NO!


...ONE OF THE MIGHTIEST REALMS IN AFRICA!
EGYPT...


AND THAT IS...?
THERE WAS A PROVOCATEUR...
INCITING THEM TO DEMAND THAT ISHTAR SHOW HER FACE
ACCORDING TO WITNESS ACCOUNTS, THE MAN WAS...
...BLIND IN ONE EYE AND CLAD IN A BLACK CAPE!
URH! ON NAKIA'S BUSINESS, NO DOUBT!
I'M RIGHT HERE, KASH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT IS, TO SAY THE LEAST TROUBLING!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO WHAT STIRRED UP THE CROWD AND CAUSED THEM TO OVERTURN PRINCESS YURI'S PALANQUIN.
UGARIT
THE HITTITE ENCAMPMENT...
SIR!
YOUR MAJESTY!